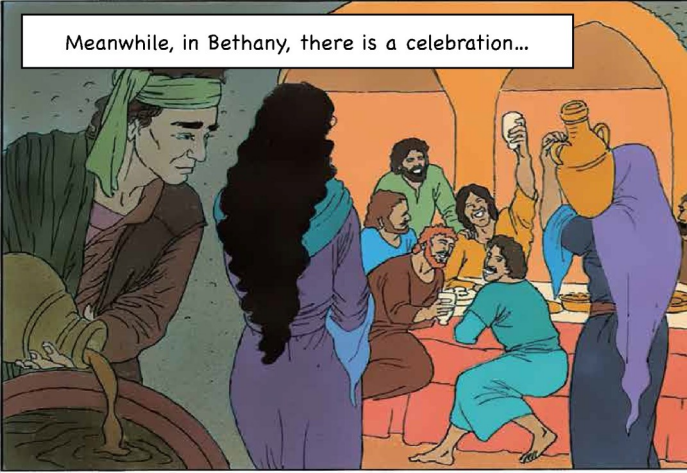


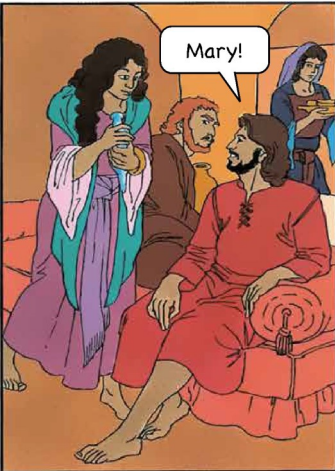
HONORING JESUS

READ FOR YOURSELF: John 12:1-11

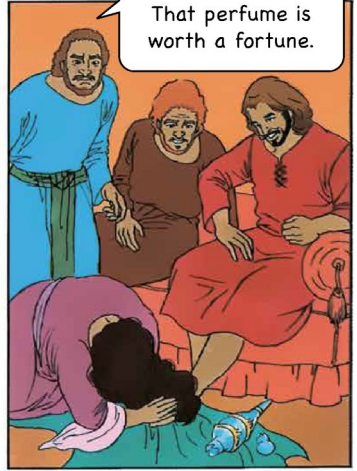
Meanwhile, in Bethany, there is a celebration...



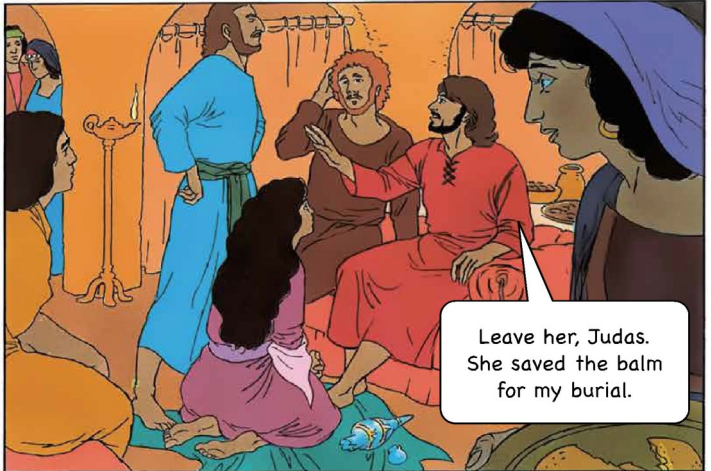
What a waste!
That perfume is
worth a fortune.



Mary!



We could have
sold it. We
could have
given the
money to the
poor.



Leave her, Judas.
She saved the balm
for my burial.

HONORING JESUS

The Lord Jesus knows that He will die. He has said that a number of times. In Jerusalem plans are being laid to kill Him. In spite of that He goes to Bethany, near Jerusalem. That is where Lazarus, Martha and Mary live.

Everyone is talking about how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. But Mary is thinking about Jesus Himself. That is why she brings Him a special gift: a bottle of pure nard perfume, from faraway India. It is worth at least 300 silver coins: a whole year's salary.

Normally a small amount of this kind of balsam is used for a burial. Now Mary pours out the whole bottle, all 300 grams of it, over Jesus' feet.

Some time ago, Mary had been sitting at the Lord Jesus' feet listening to Him (Luke 10:38-42). She knows who He is. He is the Messiah, the anointed one. That is why she anoints Him.

Jesus is pleased with her gift. He sees it as an encouragement to die. It is as though the balsam already prepares Him for burial.

MEMORY VERSE

*"Giving thanks is the sacrifice that honours me, and I will surely save all who obey me."
(Psalm 50:23)*

WHO IS JESUS?

Anointed one

"The kings of the earth prepared themselves, and the rulers met together against the Lord and His Messiah." (Acts 4:26).

This is a passage from the book of Acts. In this book are stories about the disciples who succeeded the Lord Jesus. In this passage the disciples recalled a verse from the Psalms that speaks about the anointed one of God. The passage is about Jesus the Messiah. Messiah (Hebrew) or Christ (Greek) literally means 'anointed'. Jesus is the anointed one because He is anointed and affirmed by God through the Holy Spirit to carry out his task.



OLD TREASURES

God gives great victories to His king; He shows constant love to the one He has anointed (Psalm 18:50)

God supports His anointed one. King David long ago knew that when he wrote this psalm, 1000 years before Jesus came. Jesus knows it too. He is taking the most difficult path that anyone could ever take. He will freely take the sin of all people on Himself. But He will overcome death, because God will stand by and support Him.



EXTRA INFORMATION

Hallelujah!

In the Bible we read much about singing and making music. We find many different kinds of songs, songs of love and songs of lamentations, songs of feasting and songs of protesting, children singing, choir and solo. And through all the centuries people have sung along with the Bible.

Often in songs, God is put in the centre. That is called praising God. Praising God on your own is in itself wonderful, but doing it together you experience even more strongly how much He is worthy of being worshipped. God is good! His goodness and grace and love are eternal! That is why we sing again and again: Hallelujah! Because that means: let us praise the Lord!

WORSHIP HIM!

If you marvel at someone it is not difficult to say why. With God it is the same. You can feel free to tell God why you admire Him. You can worship Him. You will find that you receive more words with which to do that. And if you run out of words, you can sing a hymn or recite a Psalm out loud. You please God with your worship. And you become happy yourself too.

TIP

Remember Jesus when you sing 'hallelujah' in a song. He is worthy to be praised. And He hears you: He is always with you!



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. What is in Mary's bottle and how much does it cost?

2. What thoughts come to Jesus when He is anointed with balsam by Mary?

3. How is Judas Iscariot called in John 12:6 and why?

4. With what does God anoint Jesus:

- a) With Mary's perfume
- b) With the Holy Spirit
- c) With water at his baptism

5. What does 'Hallelujah' mean?

6. Find 3 Psalms that begin and end with the words 'Praise the Lord!' ('Hallelujah!')

7. In Revelation 19:4 NIV we read: 'Amen, hallelujah!' Translate those two words into ordinary English:

BIBLE READING

Sun	John 12:1-11
Mon	Acts 4:23-31
Tue	Psalm 2
Wed	Psalm 50:14-23
Thu	Revelation 7:9-12
Fri	Psalm 136
Sat	Psalm 150



ACTION POINT!

Have a look at Psalm 113. It begins and ends with 'Praise the Lord!' Actually this is twice 'Hallelujah!' And then read Psalm 117 (NIV) as well. That is the shortest of all Psalms, but it too is a real Hallelujah psalm!