

The Fragrance Of Christ

In John 12:3 we read that Mary anointed the feet of Jesus with an expensive perfume and then wiped His feet with her hair. The perfume that Mary used was worth 300 denarii, the equivalent of a year's wages. Perfume was imported into Palestine and because of its value, was often purchased as an investment. This perfume may well have represented Mary's life savings.

Did Mary learn of Christ's death while sitting at His feet? At the very least, she exhibited genuine faith at the death of Lazarus and sensed the increasing stress under which Jesus lived, and sought to show her devotion. Her loving act filled the house with fragrance.

The act is all the more striking in that a Jewish lady never unbound her hair in public. But Mary did not stop to calculate public reaction. Her heart went out to her Lord and she gave expression to something of her feelings in this beautiful and touching act.

There is always something beautiful and fragrant about what we do out of love. No act performed out of a mere sense of duty, or obligation, can fill the air with that kind of fragrance. As we share God's love, we emit the fragrance of Christ which flows from the depths of our being through us to others and back again as a sweet savour unto Him.