

## **Leave Her Alone**

Mark 14:1-11

by Don Falkos

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Passover was just two days away and would be followed immediately by the week-long Feast of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the experts in the Law were still looking for some stealthy way to apprehend Jesus and kill him. "We can't do anything during the Feast," they agreed, "or the people may riot."

Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of a man known as Simon the Leper. While they were eating, a woman came in with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume made of pure nard. She broke open the jar and poured the perfume over Jesus' head.

Some of the people at the table were indignant. "What a waste! That was expensive perfume. It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." They reproached the woman harshly.

But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Don't criticize her. She has done a beautiful thing for me. You will always have the poor among you, and you can help them whenever you want. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body for burial, ahead of time. I tell you the truth, wherever the good news is announced throughout the world, the story of what this woman has just done will be told. She will be remembered."

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus. When they heard what he had to say, they were delighted, and they promised to pay him for his services. So Judas began to look for a convenient opportunity to hand Jesus over to them.