

# Do you remember the spring memorial?

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**By Dave Havir**

BIG SANDY, Texas—Jesus called it a memorial. It is natural to think about it every spring. You are probably willing to confess that you have been thinking about it and speaking about it this spring.

Jesus said that whenever the gospel was preached throughout the whole world this event should be mentioned as a memorial of her (Mark 14:9). Of her?

I bet you thought I was talking about the death and resurrection of the Christ. Of course, you were thinking about Jesus being our Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7) and about Him being raised from the dead. That is a powerful memorial.

But have you been thinking of her and of what she did?

When Jesus went to Bethany, He went to the home of Simon the leper (Mark 14:3). While He was eating, Mary (identified in John's account in John 12:3) took some expensive ointment and poured it on Jesus.

As you remember, some of the men scolded her for "wasting" the ointment (verse 4). They pointed out that this money could have been used to help the poor (verse 5). They murmured against her.

Well, Jesus came to her defense (verse 6). He said that she was justified in spending the money in this fashion.

Was there a noble purpose in this pouring of ointment? Jesus said there was. He mentioned that she was anointing His body in preparation for His burial (verse 8).

She believed what Jesus had said.

Earlier, when Jesus began to tell His disciples about His coming suffering, death and resurrection (Mark 8:31), Peter rebuked Him (verse 32). Jesus rebuked Peter back (verse 33). Peter had trouble believing Jesus was going to die.



**OINTMENT CONTAINER?**—Above is a 2,000-year-old flask made of "Roman glass" from the Holy Land that Dixon and Linda Cartwright purchased on a trip to Israel in 2003.

A little later, Jesus again told them that He was going to die and be resurrected (Mark 9:31). But they didn't comprehend what He was saying and they were afraid to ask (verse 32).

When it was recorded that He told them a third time, Luke mentioned that they did not understand (Luke 18:34).

Later, after the resurrection, Luke wrote that Jesus gave them understanding (Luke 24:44-47).

When Judas came to identify Jesus to the chief priests and elders (Matthew 26:47-49), Peter used his sword to defend his friend and leader. Again, I believe that Peter had trouble believing that Jesus was going to die.

Yet Mary believed and poured the ointment. And we are supposed to remember it and talk about it as a memorial.