EPISODE NO. 271

John 12:1-11

Mary Prepared Jesus for Burial

1 Six days before the Passover Festival, Jesus came to the town of Bethany. Lazarus was there — the one whom Jesus had raised from death. 2 They gave a dinner for Jesus there. Martha was helping, and Lazarus was one of the guests with Jesus. 3 Mary brought in about a pint of a very expensive perfume — pure nard. She rubbed it on Jesus' feet. Then she dried his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the smell of perfume.

4 One of Jesus' followers was ready to turn against Jesus. This was Judas Iscariot. He said, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold for 300 silver coins and given to some poor people?" 6 (Judas did not say this because he cared about poor people. Judas was a thief; he was the one who was always carrying the group's bag of money.)

7 Then Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She must do this for the day when I am buried. 8 You will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have ME!"

People Came to See Lazarus

9 A large crowd of Jews knew that Jesus was there. They came not only because they wanted to see Jesus, but also because of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from death. 10 The most important priests planned to kill Lazarus, too. 11 Many people were starting to abandon the Jewish leaders because of Lazarus. They were beginning to believe in Jesus.