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The Final Week of Jesus Christ's Ministry Prior to His Glorious Resurrection

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THE FINAL WEEK OF JESUS CHRIST'S MINISTRY PRIOR TO HIS GLORIOUS RESURRECTION

INTRODUCTION: There are a total of 89 chapters in the four Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Of these, only four record the first thirty years of Jesus' earthly life (Mt. 1, 2; Lk. 1, 2). However, of the remaining eighty-five, no less than twenty-four describe the final eight days of His life (Mt. 21-27; Mk. 11-15; Lk. 20-23; Jn. 12-19). In other words, as measured by the scriptural space given it, the last week or so of our Lord's ministry was some eight times more important than the first 30 years. These eight "dreadful days of divine destiny" began with a conspiracy by sinners. They would end with a crucifixion for sinners. This all important time span will be overviewed in a two-fold manner.

- (1) A basic outline summary of each day.
- (2) An extended analytical summary of each day.

SATURDAY – His anointing by Mary at Bethany

- The Outline
 - A. Martha prepares a supper at Bethany to celebrate the raising of Lazarus from the dead (Jn. 12:1, 2).
 - B. Mary (Martha's sister) anoints Jesus with some costly ointment (Mt. 26:6-13; Mk. 14:3-9; Jn. 12:3-11).
 1. Judas rebukes Mary for this, but is himself rebuked by Jesus.
 2. Jesus predicted this act of devotion would be remembered throughout the ages.

- The Analysis

"Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always ... Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her." (Jn. 12:1-8; Mk. 14:9)

- A. This was the only anointing His body would receive. In spite of the many times Christ had warned of His suffering and death (see Mt. 16:21; 20:18-19), apparently the only person to take Him seriously was Mary (see also Jn. 10:11, 17-18).
- B. Even prior to his betrayal of Jesus we are told the following facts regarding Judas Iscariot:
- *He belonged to Satan from the very beginning (Jn. 6:70).
 - *He was a shameless hypocrite.
 - *He was a thief.