

Harmony of the Gospels

Arrival at Bethany John 11:55-12:1; 12:9-11

- This is the third Passover mentioned by John in conjunction with the ministry of Jesus which is largely the basis for establishing the ministry of Jesus as lasting around 3 years. (John 2:13; 6:4; 11:55)
- The people had to go through a ritual washing in order to observe the Passover.

Place for Ritual Cleansing

- Note the divider down the middle of the steps. One would go down the right side in their “unclean” condition and emerge up the other side as “clean”.



Arrival at Bethany John 11:55-12:1; 12:9-11

- Just as the crowd who was following Jesus through Jericho the people here had a sense of anticipation and even speculation.
- The intentions of the chief priests and the Pharisees toward Jesus were well known.
- Bethany was close to Jerusalem but out of sight. This fact and the popularity of the people made the religious leaders hesitate in their effort to arrest Jesus.
- The plans to kill Lazarus would be amusing if not so evil and twisted.

Mary's anointing of Jesus for burial

Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:2-8

- Matthew and Mark tell the setting is the home of Simon the Leper. Most likely someone who had been healed of leprosy by Jesus since he would not be permitted to be at such a gathering otherwise.
- John tells us that Martha and Lazarus were present and identifies the one Matthew and Mark simply designate as a woman as Mary their sister.
- The measure designated here is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound in standard measurement.
- The lavish nature of this anointing is seen in the valuation of 300 days wages of a common laborer. In our economy that would equal over \$17,000.

Mary's anointing of Jesus for burial

Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:2-8

- Judas represents those who by guilt and feigned spiritual oneness attempt to cover up a life of hypocrisy.
- It is not possible to lavish devotion in any form upon Jesus that He does not deserve.
- Be prepared for criticism when you do follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit to give time, talent and treasure as an offering to our Lord.
- We demonstrate to a watching world the incomparable worth of our Lord through our extravagant devotion to Him.
- Jesus foresaw this very moment as we are looking at this story.

Triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19

- This was the third time Jesus had approached Jerusalem. On the two other occasions Jesus and those with Him would have entered the city along with the others going up for the Passover.

Triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19

- On this occasion Jesus stopped on the Mount of Olives and gave instructions for His disciples to go into the nearby village and retrieve a colt of a donkey which had never been ridden.
 - To stop and make such preparation revealed a unique event was unfolding.
 - The tame demeanor of the colt which had never been ridden would attest to the unique nature of the rider.
 - Matthew and John point out that this is a fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9 although John points out that the disciples did not comprehend this until later. John 12:16

Triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19

- The words and actions of the crowds reveal a realization that Jesus is making His claim as the true King of Israel.
 - The people shout out the words of Psalm 118: 25,26 which are in the context of terminology Jesus used to speak of His identity. (Psalm 118:22)
 - Paving the way with their clothes and palm branches reveal a recognition that this is One who is to be honored. The ancient version of rolling out the red carpet.

Triumphal entry into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19

- The Pharisees well understood the implications of the crowds words and actions. They called on Jesus to correct them but instead He corrected them. Luke 19:39-40
- Jesus weeps over the city and foretells its destruction. This prediction was fulfilled when the Roman General Titus who later became a Roman Emperor destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A. D.

Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives



This 1/50th scale model of Jerusalem at the time of Christ would give a feel for the sight Jesus saw as he descended from the Mt. of Olives and wept over the city.

