



Hope of Spring



Mary's Perfume

Mary took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. John 12:3

Touring the king Tutankhamen exhibit, the beauty of an Egyptian alabaster perfume bottle struck me. The colors of the translucent stone bottle danced and played under the display lights. Such was the bottle that held Mary's precious perfume worth a year's wage. Had she scrimped, sacrificed, and saved to purchase this ointment? Yet the Bible portrays her in the gospels of John and Mark, breaking the beautiful vial and pouring it on Jesus' head and dusty feet. When the vial was broken the beautiful fragrance filled the room.

Now, if God had asked of me to offer cheap cologne (used to be referred to as "toilette water") or even my \$100 bottle of Chanel, that would have been easy! I'd readily break the vial and give it to Him.

"But Lord? The broken body of my child pouring out his life-blood for a bigger picture?" Tear-infused perfume!

Mary didn't know the bigger picture as she held the beautiful broken shards in her hand. Jesus explained that she had anointed Him for his burial. That very week His own body would be broken on the cross and His life-blood poured to the ground, filling the world with its fragrance!

Judas and the others who were standing around calling Mary's sacrifice "a waste" (John 12:4-6, Mark 14:4). Satan wants you to believe that your child's death was a total waste. It's not moms! What's poured out at Jesus feet can fill a room with its fragrance.



While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head. But some were indignantly remarking to one another, "Why has this perfume been wasted? For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they were scolding her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them; but you do not always have Me. She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial. Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her." Mark 14:3-9

Even though it feels like a "total waste" can you retain the hope of the broken shards of your child's death someday having value and giving off a fragrance?

How can the aroma of your child's death become an aroma of life?
(II Corinthians 2:14-15, Ephesians 5:1, 2)

