

The Woman Anointing Jesus' Feet

New American Standard Version; www.BibleGateway.com

Is this one story with four accounts? Are these two or more separate incidents? Do they agree? Are there contradictions? See the suggestions at the end of this outline for Observation, Interpretation, and Application questions.

	Matthew 26:6-13	Mark 14:3-9	Luke 7:37-39	John 12:1-8
Where?	⁶ Now when Jesus was in Bethany, at the home of Simon the leper,	³ While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining <i>at the table</i> ,	³⁶ Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined <i>at the table</i> .	Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining <i>at the table</i> with Him.
Who?	⁷ a woman came to Him	there came a woman	³⁷ And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner;	³ Mary
What?	with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume,	with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard;	and when she learned that He was reclining <i>at the table</i> in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume,	then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard,
How?	and she poured it on His head as He reclined <i>at the table</i> .	<i>and</i> she broke the vial and poured it over His head.	³⁸ and standing behind <i>Him</i> at His feet, weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.	and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.
Who Reacted?	⁸ But the disciples were indignant when they saw <i>this</i> ,	⁴ But some were indignantly	³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this,	⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him,

Observation – *What does it say?*

Interpretation – *What does it mean?*

Application – *What does it mean for me?*

	Matthew 26:6-13	Mark 14:3-9	Luke 7:37-39	John 12:1-8
Why?	and said, "Why this waste? ⁹ For this <i>perfume</i> might have been sold for a high price and <i>the money</i> given to the poor."	<i>remarking</i> to one another, "Why has this perfume been wasted? ⁵ For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and <i>the money</i> given to the poor." And they were scolding her.	he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet He would know who and what sort of person this woman is who is touching Him, that she is a sinner."	*said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor <i>people</i> ?" ⁶ Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.
Response?	¹⁰ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you bother the woman? For she has done a good deed to Me. ¹¹ For you always have the poor with you; but you do not always have Me. ¹² For when she poured this perfume on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial. ¹³ Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."	⁶ But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me. ⁷ 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. ⁸ She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial. ⁹ 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."	⁴⁰ And Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he replied, "Say it, Teacher." ⁴¹ "A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?"	⁷ Therefore Jesus said, "Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. ⁸ For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me."

Observation

- Underline all the similarities in the four passages.
- Circle any differences between the passages.
- What other observations do you make in these passages?

Interpretation

- How do similar or identical details suggest these are accounts of the same incident?
- How do differences suggest these are different events?
- What differences can you reconcile?
- Which ones seem just too dissimilar?
- What other questions do these passages raise for you?

Application

- How does this comparison affect your view of the inspiration of Scripture?
- How would you explain these passages to a skeptic?
- How important is it to deal with alleged problems in the Bible?