

John 12:1-8 (NLT) Reader's Theatre

Setting: A large room with a dinner table with food in **Lazarus's** house. (The communion table could serve the purpose.) **Martha** has no lines but serves people food from the table. Lots of people (**Crowd**) milling around and chatting with each other. **Judas** leans against the wall on one side. **Jesus** is seated toward center on the other side. **Mary** will enter past **Judas** and cross to **Jesus**. The **Narrator** may be apart from the scene or one of the **Crowd**.

Narrator: Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—

Lazarus: [*waves cheerily to congregation, breaking 4th wall*] – the man he had raised from the dead!

Narrator: A dinner was prepared in Jesus' honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him.

[*All stop what they are doing to watch Mary*]

Mary: [*Acting out as she says*] Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair.

Crowd: The house was filled with the fragrance!

Narrator: But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said,

Judas: That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.

Narrator: Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples' money, he often stole some for himself. But Jesus said,

Jesus: Leave her alone. She did this in preparation for my burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.

[*All freeze for a count of three, then exeunt.*]