

THE GREAT WENCHOSTER BIBLE

John 12: 1-8

1. Then Jesus, six days before the Passover, came unto Bethany, where Lazarus was, which had been dead, whom He raised from the dead. This was he of whom his sister Martha said, He stinketh, but lo, she was mistaken, and he did come forth with a sweet whiff of pear and spice and a hint of tangerine.
2. There in their home in Bethany they made Him a supper of figs and dates and roast goat with garlic; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. And some of the disciples did glance sideways at him and wondered. And it came to pass that after supper the wind did blow exceedingly, and Jesus got up from table and commanded it to cease. And the disciples marvelled, one to another, saying, Who is this, that even the wind doth cease at His word?
3. Then took Mary of Bethany an pound of ointment of spikenard, super-costly, and removing the stopper from the jar she anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the gel which afterward the disciples did try and identify by nose, some saying it was like peaches and cream, whilst others demurred saying it was pomegranate, and others exclaimed, What melons!
4. Then expostulated one of the Twelve, Judas Iscariot, whose middle name was Ben, Simon's son, which should betray him, (1)
5. Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given verily to the poor? Or even traded for bread, wine and meat for the hungry?
6. This he said, not that he cared for the poor and hungry; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, (let the reader understand,) and bare what was put therein. (2) And he planned to go to a far country to waste his substance with riotous living. (3)
7. Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this though she is being a bit premature, for my time is not yet come. Now that's pretty Johannine, eh? Better that she should have kept it for Easter. But the disciples knew not what he meant by this day. Yet some believed, and immediately started painting eggs.
8. And Jesus, raised his eyes to heaven, but got no voice or sign, so said, Well? Er, the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always. So there! And Lazarus did pour more wine and Martha served an huge sherry trifle, and all did eat and relish the evening. And lo! they were still in Bethany.

(1) This is a later interpolation which is not necessary to the story, but which is evidence of how the disciples viewed Judas. However, this attitude forgets that he partook of the bread and wine of the Last Supper and had his feet washed by Jesus along with everyone else.

(2) Another instance of how the writer of this Gospel is determined to portray this reasonable question in a negative light because of who it was that asked it.

(3) Some scholars are perplexed as to how this Lucan verse got into a Johannine narrative, whilst others couldn't care less.

Footnote: All this took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan.