

INTRODUCTION

The guests at the event include: (also in John 12:1-8)

Simon - hosts the event, was cured of his leprosy.
Jesus - was in Jerusalem area to die in a few days.
Martha - she's involved in serving.
Lazarus - he has just been raised from the dead.
Mary - the woman who breaks open the alabaster box.
Judas - disciple, thief, and a betrayer of Jesus.
Others - these join in with Judas, express indignation, murmur.

Just imagine the table topics with this group.

1. AGAIN, OUR ATTENTION FOCUSES ON THREE PEOPLE

1) Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha.

She breaks open the alabaster box and spreads the contents on Jesus.
(John 12:3) " ... and wiped his feet with her hair ... "

2) Judas, leader of the opposition, and "some that had indignation."

Question, "Why was this waste of the ointment made?"
(John 12:6) "This he said, not that he cared for the poor, .. , he was a thief."

3) Jesus.

The critics probably wait for Jesus to condemn the action; but, Jesus commends her.
(v6-8) "Let her alone ... a good work on me ... she has done what she could ...
she is here aforehand to anoint my body to the burying"

2. THREE LESSONS ABOUT BREAKING OUR ALABASTER BOXES

1) Love sees the lasting value, big picture.

Down the road, looking back, we determine it was worth it all.

2) Love seems to be wasteful to those who do not love.

Is the young man, dating his sweetheart, spending too much?
Others cannot understand why we spend so much time and treasure in Christian living.

3) Love seizes the opportunity.

Danger in delay: lose your opportunity or lose your desire.
If Mary didn't do it now, the opportunity would not present itself again.

CLOSE - don't delay your decision to become a Christian.