

Sermons We See

Theme

Demonstrating our love for Jesus.

Object

You could use a bottle of perfume or a picture of Charles Spurgeon.

Scripture

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. John 12:3 (NIV)

Charles Spurgeon is considered to be one of the greatest preachers who ever lived. In fact, he is sometimes called the "Prince Among Preachers." Even though Spurgeon died over a hundred years ago, people still read his sermons to this day.

According to a story I read, Spurgeon and his wife owned chickens and would sell the eggs their chickens laid. They refused to give the eggs away. Even close relatives were expected to pay for any eggs which they got from the Spurgeons. As a result, some people thought the Spurgeons were selfish and greedy.

The Spurgeons accepted this criticism without defending themselves, and only after Mrs. Spurgeon died was the full story revealed. The Spurgeons never spent one penny of that egg money on themselves. Every penny that the Spurgeons made from the sale of their eggs went to support two elderly widows. Even though he never even mentioned it from the pulpit, that story may have been one of the greatest sermons Spurgeon ever preached. The story reminds me of a poem entitled "Sermons We See," part of which goes like this:

I'd rather see a sermon
than hear one any day;

I'd rather one should walk with me
than merely tell the way.

And the best of all the preachers
are the men who live their creeds,
For to see good put in action
is what everybody needs. [1]

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day." In our Bible story today, we will see how a woman named Mary put her love for Jesus into action for everyone to see.

Jesus was visiting in the home of Mary and Martha whose brother, Lazarus, Jesus had recently raised from the dead. As they sat visiting with Jesus, Mary took a bottle of perfume and poured it on the feet of Jesus. Then she knelt and dried his feet with her hair. Now, this perfume wasn't like the perfume we might buy at the store for a few dollars. It was very expensive. In fact, the Bible says it was worth about a year's wages. This perfume was Mary's most prized possession, the best she had to give. While other people talked about their love for Jesus, Mary showed her love by her actions. She poured her most prized possession on the feet of Jesus.

You might think that others would be impressed that Mary would pour out such expensive perfume on the feet of Jesus, but that was not the case. In fact, she was criticized. Judas, who later betrayed Jesus, said, "We could have sold this perfume for a year's wages and given the money to the poor." The truth is, Judas didn't care about the poor, the Bible says that as the keeper of the money bag, he often helped himself to that money for his own personal use.

Two people -- Judas and Mary. One talked about helping the poor while the other showed us the importance of giving our best for Jesus. I don't know about you, but "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day."

Dear Father, help us to demonstrate our love for you, not in words, but in our actions. Help us to be a sermon that other people can see. Amen.

[1] Collected Verse of Edgar Guest, NY:Buccaneer Books, 1976, pg.599

Interactive Group Activities
by Carol Williams & Charles Kirkpatrick

Sermon Title: "Sermons We See"

Scripture Reading: John 12:1-8

FOLLOW ME: Have the children trace the outline of their shoes on construction paper and cut them out. All shoes can be placed one ahead of another and walked on to follow the leader. Lead the children in a discussion of how others may be following what WE do, so we are a SERMON in shoes! For extra fun, the teacher can place the "shoes" at various places and spaces to make the following a little more tricky and harder to follow! If someone falls or tips over, this will make a good discussion of those who are following what WE DO!

SHOE SERMON CRAFT:

Option 1: Have the children use tracings of their shoes on construction as indicated in the previous activity. Write I'M A SERMON IN SHOES and decorate the shoes with real glued-on shoe strings, glitter or sequins and hang on a wall at home with a shoe string!

Option 2: - The children will trace their shoes and decorate as previously indicated, but they will wear that shoe craft around their neck with a shoe string as the necklace. The initials at the bottom of the shoe of WWJD (what would Jesus do) might be added, because a GOOD SERMON would be to do what Jesus would do!

POSTER ACTIVITY: Title — SERMON IN SHOES

Subtitle on poster: DID YOU KNOW YOU'RE A SERMON IN SHOES?:

(Have the children fill in the missing letters below that teacher has prepared ahead of time):

So _____ it (walk) and _____ it (talk)

So _____ it (live) and _____ it (give)

So _____ it (teach) and _____ it (preach)

So _____ it (know) and _____ it (show)

* The teacher may wish to give the first letter of the word for a clue, or for younger children, the teacher might make little dots for the letters for children to trace over.

SERMON IN SHOES SNACK: The teacher will provide two shoe cutouts per hole punched along the 2 narrow ends and the bottom of the shoe so that the children can thread a shoe string through the shoe holes punched out along the edges. Children can decorate the shoes and write I'M A SERMON IN SHOES on them. They will then fill the shoes with candy which the teacher will give them as they answer questions about today's lesson.

SHOE POEM: Teacher can have a SHOE cut out of construction paper for each child. A copy of the poem "Sermons We See" from today's lesson will be glued on the shoe to be put in their Bible as a Bookmark!

POSTER OR CHALKBOARD COMPARISON: MARY (column 1);
JUDAS (column 2)

Teacher or older child can write what they know about each person. (Ex. MARY: loved Jesus, poured perfume on Jesus' feet, gave her most prized possession, showed her love by her actions. JUDAS: Didn't care about the poor, keeper of money bag, stole from the money bag for his own use, betrayed Jesus.) End with discussion of SEEING a SERMON is better than HEARING one any day!!

End of Class: The teacher will draw a large shoe on the chalkboard and let the children write their own name on the shoe as a child who

wants to be a GOOD SERMON to others. Reminder — it's NOT what we SAY, it's what we DO!

Song: "Our Best " by Grant Colfax Tullar

Words and Music (pdf)



MP3 Piano Accompaniment

Song: "Service Song" by Ralph Merrifield - Used by Permission

Words and Music (pdf)



MP3 Accompaniment

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About Carol Williams

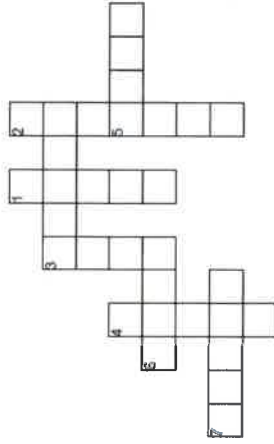
Carol and her husband have served churches in Illinois, Minnesota, Mississippi, Michigan, and Indiana. Carol loves to work with children so you will find her teaching in Junior Church and children's Sunday School. She also has clowning ministry in which she is known as Bubbles tc (the clown).

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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- The building in which a family lives
- The part of the body on which a person stands
- The opposite of rich
- Pay received for the labor of a worker

DOWN

- The disciple who betrayed Jesus
- A liquid produced and sold for its pleasant smell
- What grows on the head of a person
- What we use to buy things

MONEY	WAGES	POOR	JUDAS
HOUSE	HAIR	PERFUME	FEET



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Children's Worship Bulletin

Jesus Anointed with Perfume

John 12:1-8

Word Search

X C Z R Y F S S F K K G C R V
S Q I E U V F G B Y I H P I U
P A N H E E E J K A Y X T A
H O W O C L P N E J E S U S J
M I I U M Z T E Z T M G T M E
P H P S Q Q N Q L D N A G A V
C S E E P O U R E D Y Z P S J
Q N D O Z F R A G R A N C E U
P O M A R T H A P L Q T P S X
L X F K R G D N S A L H E A M
A J C M A R Y A M Z E I R R M
B N R A C N D B S A Q E E F V Y
C V N U C U V D Q R R F U B R
V C H I J E N F X U I L M X D
E X P E N S I V E S O E E G K

EXPENSIVE	MARTHA	FRAGRANCE	JUDAS	HOUSE
POURED	JESUS	PERFUME	WIPED	MARY
THIEF	HAIR	LAZARUS	MONEY	FEET

Your Church Name Here
Anytown, Anywhere

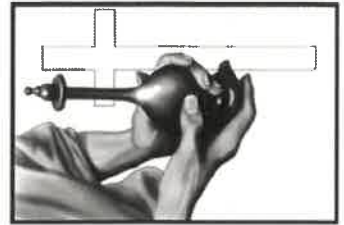
Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 8-15-21-19-5 _____
- 5-24-16-5-14-19-9-22-5 _____
- 16-15-21-18-5-4 _____
- 20-8-9-5-6 _____
- 6-18-1-7-18-1-14-3-5 _____
- 6-5-5-20 _____
- 8-1-9-18 _____
- 13-15-14-5-25 _____
- 23-9-16-5-4 _____
- 16-5-18-6-21-13-5 _____

HOUSE	EXPENSIVE	POURED	THIEF	FRAGRANCE
FEET	HAIR	MONEY	WIPED	PERFUME



Color Me!



Mary Anoints Jesus' Feet
John 12:1-8



Mary shows her love for Jesus.

Mary took a very expensive bottle of perfume and poured it on Jesus' feet. She wiped them with her hair, and the sweet smell of the perfume filled the house.

John 12:3 (CEV)