

John 12:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.

Analysis

Jesus defends Mary: 'Let her alone,' indicating opposition to her (probably from Judas but possibly others). The phrase 'against the day of my burying hath she kept this' suggests she saved the ointment for His burial. Jesus recognizes her act as prophetic preparation for His death. Whether Mary consciously understood or acted on spiritual intuition, Jesus affirms her worship. His statement 'ye have the poor always' doesn't diminish concern for poverty but establishes worship's priority. The unique opportunity to honor the Incarnate Son transcends social obligation.

Historical Context

Burial preparation involved anointing with expensive spices and oils. Jesus' reference to His burial again predicts His imminent death, though the disciples still don't grasp this.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' defense of Mary validate worship that others criticize as excessive?
2. What does 'against the day of my burying' teach about prophetic spiritual insight?
3. In what ways does worship take precedence over other good works?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	οὖν	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	ἄφες	αὐτό·	εἰς	τὴν	ἡμέραν
said	Then	G3588	Jesus	Let	her	against	G3588	the day
G2036	G3767		G2424	G863	G846	G1519		G2250
τοῦ	ἐνταφιασμοῦ	μου	τετηρήκεν	αὐτό·				
G3588	burying	of my	hath she kept	her				
	G1780	G3450	G5083	G846				

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:12 (Parallel theme): For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.

Mark 14:6 (References Jesus): And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.

Matthew 26:10 (References Jesus): When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.