

When Mary Poured a Rich Perfume

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'When Mary Poured a Rich Perfume'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1. When Mar - y poured a rich per-fume on Je - sus' wea - ry feet,
2. The Lord re - plied,"Leave her a - lone! She bought it for this day.
3. O, Christ,what can your peo-ple bring to show you thanks and love?

her car - ing filled that hum-ble room; the fra-grance there was sweet.
This car - ing love that she has shown is faith - ful to God's way.
You need no fra - grant of - fer - ing; for now you reign a - bove.

But full of an - ger, Ju - das said,"We could have used this more!
The poor will al - ways be with you, but you will not have me."
Since there will nev - er cease to be the poor through-out the land,

Why was her gift not sold in - stead and giv - en to the poor?"
He blessed her and he thanked her, too, for giv - ing lav - ish - ly.
may we, your church, serve faith - ful - ly by offer - ing them our hand.

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2001 (John 12:1-8; Deuteronomy 15:11)
MUSIC: English melody; arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906
(Alternate tunes: ELLACOMBE or FOREST GREEN)

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Hymn Note: Faithful people in Jesus' day memorized many passages of the Bible. Jesus and the Gospel writers who quote him often would quote part of a verse with the expectation that people would know what follows. It is like when you hear the expression, "Four score and seven years ago..." you naturally think of what follows - the rest of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. What Jesus was quoting to Judas is Deuteronomy 15:11: "Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.'" Rather than saying there is nothing we should do about the poor, the Bible makes clear that we are called to help those in need.