

## GOSPEL PEARLS

# Jesus is our first wealth

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11\_04\_2022

*Six days before the Passover, Jesus went to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom he had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there; Martha waited on them and Lazarus was among those at table. Mary brought in a pound of very costly ointment, pure nard, and with it anointed the feet of Jesus, wiping them with her hair; the house was full of the scent of the ointment. Then Judas Iscariot – one of his disciples, the man who was to betray him – said, ‘Why wasn’t this ointment sold for three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor?’ He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he was in charge of the common fund and used to help himself to the contributions. So Jesus said, ‘Leave her alone; she had to keep this scent for the day of my burial. You have the poor with you always, you will not always have me.’ Meanwhile a large number of Jews heard that he was there and came not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead. Then the chief priests decided to kill Lazarus as well, since it was on his account that many of the Jews were leaving them and believing in Jesus. (John 12, 1-11)*

Jesus is their first wealth for those who know they were saved by Him. This is why no amount of wealth or sacrifice is ever too much if it is spent for Jesus, even if it seems a waste to those who have not opened their hearts to the Saviour. It is only then that we are also able to dedicate ourselves to the poor in whom Jesus hides Himself every day. Can you withstand the pressures of today's society where it is easier to be steered to consider only people in need and to forget about God?