

## **From the moderator**

During this time of lockdown, as opportunities to live a normal life are restricted, you may have had the opportunity of watching a film, on either a DVD or on Television. You may also have seen the film trailer put out a few days before the film itself. If you have you might have noticed that the film trailer itself is a very subtle and persuasive art form. Its aim is to entice you to watch the whole film. It does this by revealing enough of the film to get your interest, often the highlights, however it conceals enough to whet your appetite for more.

The trailer is not a new art form, and seeing one recently I was reminded of a story in John's gospel. The beautiful story of Mary of Bethany anointing the feet of Jesus. As you read it you might notice that although it is a story in itself it is also a trailer, for the main story that is yet to come. It contains all the basic themes That follow:

At the meal Mary acted as a servant and anointed Jesus' feet, At the last meal Jesus would have with his disciples, He would take the role of a servant and wash their feet.

The perfume poured out by Mary was costly, the death of Jesus would be costly, it would cost God his son, and for Jesus it would mean pouring out his life for us.

At the meal Judas opposed what Mary did, After the last meal, Judas would oppose Jesus by betraying him to the authorities.

Jesus comments that Mary was anointing him for his death and burial. As the gospel story draws to its climax, Jesus will be crucified and then buried.

Finally, the fragrance filled the room. After his death Jesus will rise and his Spirit and the good news of what God had done in Him would fill the whole world.

All the main themes are there, packed into this beautiful little trailer.

Jesus came as a servant, He poured out His life in costly sacrifice, In His mission he would meet opposition. His death was the vital key to our eternal life. But death could not hold Him, and The fragrance of His resurrection life continues to fill the world.

Perhaps during this time, you have an hour or two to spare. Why not look again at the trailer in John Chapter twelve, and then read the epic story that it points to in the rest of the book.

May God bless you and keep you and those you love safe and well.  
Yours in Christ's service

*David*