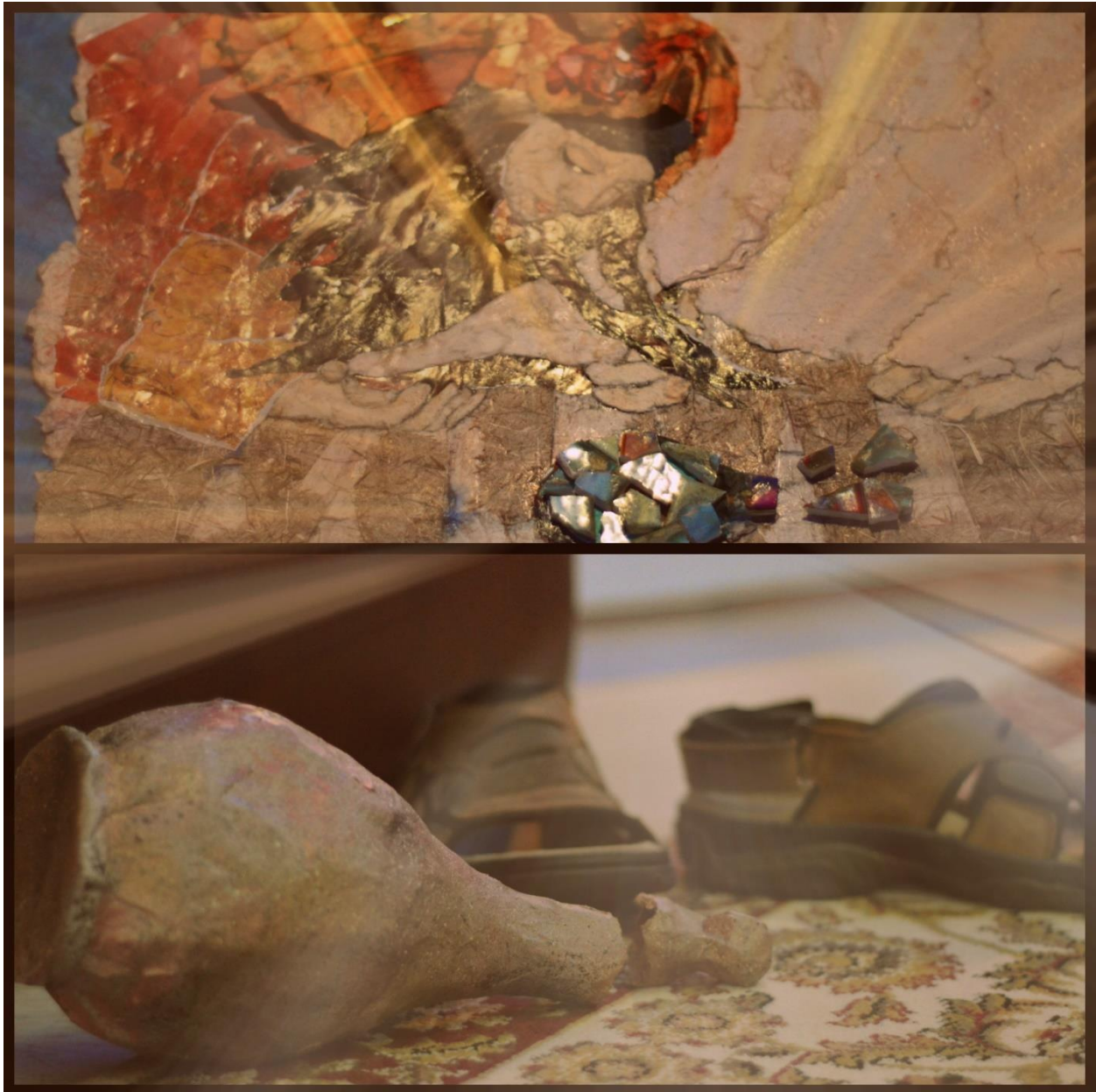


Day 3, The Walk, "Broken and Given" ~ Humility



While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Mark 14:3

And anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. John 12:3

Mary had listened intently at the feet of Jesus, and she had watched with tears as he brought her beloved brother back from the dead. Just possibly, she understood more than most who this Jesus really was.

Mary has come to the banquet at the home of Simon the leper with her alabaster jar full of rare and precious nard from India, worth as much as a year's wages which may have been part or even all of her dowry, her hopes, and dreams for being married.

She has broken the jar open,

poured the expensive oil over Jesus' head to honor Him,

and now she has humbly bent low to pour it over his feet,

so like the way he would bend to wash the feet of his disciples.

Extravagant love so humbly given.

Unusual and even considered improper, Mary let her hair down in public and used it to dry Jesus' feet, taking on the role of a slave. She cared not what anyone in the room thought of her action and her extravagant gift.



Not only did Mary break her jar and pour out her expensive ointment . . . she poured out her very life in love and sacrificial service.

Could she have known? Did she sense what would happen to her Lord in a few days, and did she realize that she was anointing him for his burial?



We do not know when the opportunity we have to show love to someone is the last one . . .

. . . is there someone in your life that needs to know of your love for them?

. . . is there a need for you to lay down your pride?

. . . how will you show Jesus your extravagant love for him?

The fragrance of Mary's ointment may have stayed with Jesus all the way to the cross . . . Jesus said that what she had done for him would be told throughout the world in memory of her . . . a timeless gift of love.

Please take some time to listen to "At the Cross," as you reflect on the art and Mary's gift of extravagant love.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeBNnupt3P8>

Lord, accept my humble offerings of love to You. Help me to lay down my pride and show love to the one who needs it most. Amen.

