

Alabaster—Messy, but Unmistakable Imagery

“While he (Jesus) was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as 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...Wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” Mark 14:3b-11, NIV.

The Ebensburg Lakeside Church of the Nazarene in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, has created a unique way to make the biblical “Alabaster Story” come to life. According to Pastor J. Bret Metcalfe, the daughter-in-law of one of the church members works with pottery. While talking with the parents of the church one day, they came up with a great idea for the upcoming Alabaster Offering. They suggested having clay jars made so that, when the time for the Alabaster Offering came, the people could break the pots. Just as Mary broke her Alabaster jar to anoint Jesus, they could break their offering containers for Him.

Alabaster Sunday morning was very exciting when the kids were invited to come forward and take turns breaking the Alabaster jars into an offering box. There was quite a mess to sort through with money and pottery, but the imagery was unmistakable.



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