

MATHEW 26:06 SIMON THE LEPER

*While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper. **Mathew 26:06***

Jesus was in the house of Simon the Leper. Little is known about Simon. He was probably a leper who had been healed by Jesus. Tradition says he was the husband of Martha. Scripture also seems to indicate this. Mathew says Jesus was dining in the house of Simon the Leper, and John says Martha was serving. This would seem to indicate a close relationship. Martha was probably his wife or older daughter. If she were Simon's wife, then her brother and sister, Lazarus and Mary, seemed to be living with her and Simon. Note that Simon's house was large enough to entertain Jesus and His disciples all at once. On such occasions, he would probably have had servants serving under the direction of his wife and not an older daughter. However, if Martha were Simon's oldest daughter, then Simon was the father of Mary and Lazarus as well. It was while Jesus was in Simon the Leper's home that Mary came up to Jesus and anointed Him.

Thought 1. Note a striking point: the man who welcomes the Lord into his home will learn much about the Lord. Just imagine the experience Simon the Leper had by inviting Jesus to dinner! The important thing to know about Simon the Leper is this: he welcomed Jesus into his home.

Thought 2. Note the closeness of the family. Throughout Scripture they are mentioned together, in particular Mary, Martha, and

Lazarus. When Christ is a constant guest in a family's home, there is usually a close bond that does not exist otherwise.

Thought 3. Mary's love for Jesus was a most unusual love. Its depth is clearly seen in this most wonderful act (see Mt. 26:6-13). □