

## JESUS

John Dominic Crossan, *Jesus, a Revolutionary Biography* (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1994),

There was unnamed individual who believed before it [execution], despite it, or even because of it. The story is in Mark 14:3-9. In Bethany .....

Why is this unnamed woman so important? Why does she get that absolutely stunning accolade from Jesus at the end? Why is this precise action and none other in any other gospel singled out for such an extraordinary comment?

As Jesus and his male disciples journeyed to Jerusalem and his death, he told them [disciples] three times that he would die and rise again (Mark 8:31-33, 9:30-32, and 10: 32-37). They [disciples] ignore, deny, dismiss, or avoid discussing those fatal predictions. ....[ (1) Peter rebuked Jesus. (2) They did not understand him. (3) James and John said to Jesus, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory].

The disciples have never, as Mark sees it, understood or accepted Jesus’ impending crucifixion. But now, in the home of Simon the Leper, for the first time somebody believes that Jesus is going to die and unless his body is anointed now, it never will be. ... [For some reason] the author of this Gospel chose an unnamed woman for the supreme model for Christian faith – for the faith that was there before, despite, or even because of Jesus’ death. Easter, for her, came early that year. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John Dominic Crossan, *Jesus, a Revolutionary Biography* (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1994), 192.