

## Alabaster: A Sweet-Smelling Savor

The Alabaster Offering, used for buildings throughout the world, is based on a beautiful story of sacrificial love. Therefore, the best results often occur when the one promoting the offering can convey the beauty of Mary's sacrifice. Following are some of the successful ways used to promote this offering in my experience:

1. A comparison—the amount of money people spend on items that are not necessary. Few women of modest means would use expensive perfume lavishly; they would just place a few touches on the neck and wrists. Point out that the woman used the very expensive perfume, lavishly pouring it on Jesus' head and feet [from the Gospels of Matthew and John]. The lesson here is that we should love the Lord lavishly, giving Him only our best.
2. A sweet-smelling sanctuary—ask everyone in advance to bring their most expensive perfume; and at an appointed time during the service, instruct them to present their offering followed by spraying a few puffs of their perfume into the air. This would be a service to remember, as not only would the congregation have given of their finances, but they would be struck by the sweet-smelling savor of a love poured out.

**Editor's Note**—keep in mind that some people have allergies to perfumes.

For this suggestion, perhaps a section of the sanctuary could be “fragrance-free” for those people, and they could be directed to present their offering in that section.



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