Becoming a Whole-Hearted Worshipper

November 18, 2018
Becoming a Whole-Hearted Worshipper

Mark 14:9  I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

*Whole Hearted Worship Has A Significant And Long Lasting Effect*
(Mark 14:3-9 NIV) While he 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. (4) Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? (5) It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly. (6) "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. (7) The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. (8) She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. (9) I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."
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This Takes Place At Bethany -- The Home Of Simon The Leper

Bethany = “house of misery”

Bethany = the scene of some important events of Jesus’ life
• The Home Of Martha, Mary, And Lazarus
• Where Jesus Raised Lazarus From The Dead
• Near Bethany He Ascended Into Heaven
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A DINNER AT THE HOME OF SIMON THE LEPER:

- **Simon Is A Former Leper Who Had Suffered With Leprosy One Of The Most Cruel Diseases Of All – Before Jesus Healed Him**

- **In Ancient Times Leprosy Was a Horrible Disease To Have**

- **Leprosy Separated The Infected From Their Own Community**

- **Simon The Leper Puts Together A Dinner Party In Honor Of Jesus His Healer**
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(Mark 14:3) 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.

▪ This Woman Was Mary, The Sister Of Martha And Lazarus

▪ We Often See Mary at The Feet Of Jesus

▪ When Jesus Speaks About What Is About To Happen To Him While No One Else Gets It, Mary Does -- It Is Mary Who Understands Jesus
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Mary Brought To Jesus An Alabaster Jar Filled With Expensive Perfume

▪ To Keep Their Money Secure, People Would Often Invest In Costly Perfumes Or Ointments That Could Be Hidden And Kept In A House Or Buried In A Field

▪ The Oil Was Derived From The Nard Plant, Which Was Native To India. It Came From A Great Distance And Was Very Valuable
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Mary the Worshipper -- *The Heart Of Mary Is A True Whole Hearted Worshipper Of Christ*

- She Broke The Jar And Poured The Perfume On His Head

- She Was Ready To Give Up Everything (Even Marriage) In Order To Devote Herself Wholeheartedly To Him

- She Broke The Jar = She Wasn't Holding Any Back
- Mary’s Devotion Was Sincere And Total
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*She Was Intense – Fervent -- Devoted In Her Worship -- (As Much As Anyone Anywhere In Scripture)*

*Mary Isn’t Concerned About What Everyone Else Is Thinking -- She Is There To Worship The Lord With Her All*
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*There Are Those Who Just Don’t See It:*

Mk 14:4-5. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.”
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Judas Was The Instigator Of The Upset

A Person May Be Very Close To Christ In Proximity -- Yet -- Very Far From Christ In Heart

It Is Not Enough To Be Close To Christ -- The Question Is -- Does He Have Your Heart?
Others Were Swayed – They Bought Into Judas’ Argument
(Mark 14:5b) And they rebuked her harshly.

THEY REGISTER TWO COMPLAINTS:
1. The Perfume Is Wasted
2. It Could Have Been Sold To Help The Poor
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Judas And The Disciples Hone Their Attack On Mary:

- “This Is Bad Stewardship”
- “Where Is Your Compassion”
- “Jesus, How Could You Let Her Do This?”
“And they criticized her sharply” (v. 5) is a Greek phrase—a verb that is used in other instances to describe the “snorting of horses”

- The Truth Is Judas Didn’t Care About The Poor -- He Just Didn’t Want To Be Poor
- He Wanted For Himself What That Money Would Bring
- Some Of The Others Believed His Manipulative Argument
- Judas Had An Agenda That Some Of The Others Could Not See Thru The Deception, So They Bought In
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**JESUS HAS AN ANSWER: The Poor Will Always Be With You**

*(Mark 14:7)* The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me.

*The Thing That Justified The Woman’s Extravagant Act Of Anointing Was That Jesus Was Going Go To Calvary To Die Soon*
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- Don't Settle For "GOOD" When "GREAT" Is Called For
- Don't “BEGRUDGE” Someone Else’s Gift
- We Are To WORSHIP GOD And MINISTER TO OTHERS
- Worship Without Ministry Falls Short Of The Dynamic Christ Wants For Us
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- Some People Are Out Of Step and They Don’t Want To Get In Step. Instead Of Encouraging -- They Criticize

- Mary Was Ready To Give Up Everything, Even Marriage, In Order To Devote Herself Wholeheartedly To Him
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This Is A Story Of Whole Hearted Worship

Mary Did What She Could With All That She Had

The Only Kind Of Sacrifice, That Makes Sense On Our Part Is A Complete Sacrifice
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**ONE QUESTION THAT SURFACES:**

- *Is Our Devotion To Christ, Costing Us Anything?*
- *The Truth Is: Extravagant Worship Is Expensive. It Is Doing What We Can Do -- With What We Have To Offer*

- *Even Though It Was Costly -- Mary's Worship Was Not Difficult For Her Because Jesus Had Her Heart*
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In True Worship -- We Give Him In Our Heart, And Everything Else Follows -
- Lips -- Hands -- Feet -- Bank Accounts -- Time -- Talents -- OUR ALL

- As We Are Emptied Of Self The Lord’s Presence Comes To Fill Us

- There Is Refreshing -- Cleansing -- Freeing Of Our Spirits -- Joy -- Peace -- Presence Of The Lord -- He Inhabits Our Praises
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THERE IS A GREAT BLESSING IN WHOLEHEARTED WORSHIP -- That's Why The Lord Wants Us To Be Worshipers In Spirit And In Truth

- Mary Could Not Keep The Events Of This Passion Week From Happening But She Could Listen To What Jesus Said
- She Could Anoint Him -- Agree With -- Prepare Him For Ministry
- Mary Was A True Worshipper... She Did What She Could
- She Showed Her Love For The Lord
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Jesus Had Mary’s Heart -- So That Surprising Act Of Extravagant Love Was Poured Out On The Savior

- *True Worship Learns That* When The Ordinary Does Not Suffice -- We Must Do Something Extraordinary In Worship

- This Was A Spontaneous -- All Out -- Over & Above -- Gift

- It Was Beautiful Because Jesus Was Aware Of The Motive

- Love Makes Our Gifts And Our Worship *Acceptable* And *Pleasing* To God.
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The Lord Does Not Value The Gift Of Worship By The Amount It Costs Or By Its Dollar Value -- He Values It By The Heart Behind It
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Mary's Worship Powerful Was Because Of The Fact That It Was In Line With God's Will

Mary Anointed Jesus’ Body For Burial

Mary’s Heart For Christ Enabled Her To Discover His True Mission And Calling -- And Her Part In It
“Jesus told His disciples directly that He was going to die, be buried, and resurrect from the dead. But they didn’t understand. Yet because she sat at Jesus’ feet, Mary was able to understand that which the disciples missed.” — Jon Courson

- The Place To Find The Will Of The Lord Is At The Feet Of Jesus
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This Was A True Ministry Unto The Lord

Mary's Anointing Was A Great Cause For Support

“Lord I Am With You... And My Heart Is Yours To Accomplish God's Will In Full.”

“You Are Being Set Apart For A Godly Purpose... And I Agree With You In Fulfilling This Purpose For Which You Have Come”
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• That Fragrant Perfume Poured Out In Anointing On Him, Covering His Hair And His Body. Put Forth A Fragrant, Long Lasting Aroma

• That Scent Reminded Christ That He Had Been Anointed -- That He Had Come For A Purpose To Die And To Be Buried For The Sins Of Men

(Mark 14: 9) I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.
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 Her Hair Took On The Same Fragrance As His Feet. She Smelled Just Like Jesus -- *That’s What Worship Does* (John 12:3)

 One Of The Surest Ways To Change Your Fragrance Is To Become A Worshipper

 The House Began To Take On The Fragrance Of Christ As Well. Is There A Stench In Your House? If You Will Pour Out Your Praise, and Worship The Lord, His Fragrance Will Fill Your House
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- The Pouring Out Was A Temporal Outlay -- **The Payback Was A Long Lasting Good Name** --- An Impacting Act Of Worship
- Mary And Her Offering Have Given Us Something To Remember Even To This Day.
- *Mary Teaches Us That There Are Long Lasting Effects Of Wholehearted Worship.*

**BE A WHOLE-HEARTED WORSHIPPER!!**