

I'm Now
Broken and
Therefore
More
Useful!

John 12:1-8



Observations

- **This story about Jesus is told in all four gospels, which to me highlights its importance (each writer's information, when combined together, gives greater clarity to this event)**
- **I believe that it raises two questions to its readers:**
 - 1) What are you and I worth to Jesus?**
 - 2) What is Jesus worth to you and me?**
- **There are several people in this story that may resemble our personalities**
- **It is important for us to identify ourselves, as these people interacted with Jesus, to see if we are where God wants us to be; and if not, to make those necessary corrections**

- **Mark doesn't, but John's gospel gives us the name of the woman (Mary of Bethany) in this story; the sister of Martha and Lazarus, whom Jesus has raised from the dead (John 12:3).**
- **John's gospel says that Martha was serving at this gathering, and Lazarus was sitting with Jesus**
- **Mary enters the room with an "alabaster jar" of perfume (a finely grained, often translucent, mineral)**
- **The contents of the box is identified as spike/pure nard, which is a very expensive aromatic oil. Mark's gospel says it was worth more than a year's wages (300 denarii) 1d=\$100 (~\$30,000, at least)**



- **The custom was to wash the feet of your guests in the house**
- **Mary goes above and beyond this, by breaking the jar containing this expensive perfume, and anointing the head and feet of Jesus with its costly contents**
- **Luke says that tears from her eyes began to mingle with the perfume as she began rubbing and wiping his feet with her hair, while kissing his feet at the same time**
- **Immediately, Jesus' disciples began to criticize her. John says that Judas in particular, claims that she has wasted the expensive perfume and could have sold it, taken the money from the sale, and helped the poor (Matt. 26:8,9)(John 12:6)**
- **Imagine how their criticisms made the woman feel?**
Do we do that? (Ex. transportation, clothes, appearance)
- **After pouring out everything you have as an act of worship to Jesus Himself, you get criticized by His own disciples for what you did (Do we do that?)**

- Jesus basically tells them to shut up and leave her alone
- He tells them that they can help the poor anytime they want to; but the time that they have to show love to Him is limited (we need to know that too) Jesus saw Himself in that Jar!
John 3:16
- Jesus had already shared with them that He was going to Jerusalem to be put to death. Here He says in a cryptic way that Mary's act of anointing Him would serve as the "anointing love," usually shown to loved ones after they had died
- The custom was to bathe the body of the dead person with oils and leave the jar of ointment in the tomb
- Criminals didn't get this treatment



Remember That Jesus Had Already Done
Something Special for Mary

He Had Raised Her Brother Lazarus From the Dead! (John 11)

- I suggest to you that when you recognize what God has done something for YOU IN PARTICULAR; that alone, should cause a deeper reverence, a deeper commitment, and an obedience that God hasn't seen from you yet!
- A successful surgery, a successful chemotherapy, a successful check-up with lab work and x-rays, a successful birth, a successful treatment and/or cure, a raise at work, a promotion, acceptance into professional school, a successful and specific prayer for your child or family member
- When God answers your prayers "EXACTLY," you owe HIM!

#1 She Broke Her Jar for Jesus

- **The alabaster jar contained something very precious and valuable; but as long as it remained in the jar, it did no one any good**
- **John records that when the contents were poured out on Jesus, the fragrance filled the whole house**
- **God has given each one of us spiritual gifts; but if you keep that gift to yourself, it benefits no one, Romans 12:5-8**
- **I believe that Christians have the responsibility to figure out what your gift is, then glorify God by benefitting those around you (parable of the talents in Matt. 25)**
- **What's in your jar? (acts of service, hospitality, influencer, encouragement), (we need some Marthas too)**

#2 She Did What She Could

Verse 8

- She couldn't keep Jesus from being criticized and arrested
- She couldn't keep the crowd from mocking Him or the soldiers from crucifying Him

But By Wiping Jesus' Feet With Her Hair She Walked Away Smelling Like Jesus

- When you use what you have for Him, others can sense that you have been with Him. Others sense Jesus' presence in you
- The Pandemic has caused Christians to be creative about ways to keep this congregation together (spiritual texts, phone calls, navigating virtual platforms with I.T. and A.V. ministries, health ministry) Acts 4:13, *"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John... they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." They smelled like Jesus, and You can smell like Him too!*

#3 What is Jesus Worth to You?

- **To Mary, He was worth everything she had (a year's salary)**
- **To Judas, the selfish accountant, he was worth only 30 pieces of silver. Judas was the most vocal disciple in criticizing what Mary had done; but he wasn't alone. Never devalue another Christian's act of service (song leaders, scripture readers, etc.)**
- **Is He worth missing a T.V. series, a ballgame, a relaxing evening over?**
- **During the Pandemic, is He worth missing an hour of worship in the sanctuary due to COVID, only to escape our houses to Walmart, Aldi's, Publix, or The Dollar Tree for several hours of recreational shopping?**
- **Be consistent in your reasoning. If COVID is keeping you out of worship, but not out of Walmart, Dollar Tree, Sam's etc.? (It may not be about the disease, but about preference.)**

Romans 12:1

New King James Version

"I beseech ye therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice (living broken alabaster jar with expensive ointment), holy, acceptable to God which is your reasonable service."

The Message

"... I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going to work, and walking around life—and place it before God as an offering (broken alabaster jar with expensive ointment). Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him."

You Are the Alabaster Jar!



Question:

***Will You
Break Open
Your
Alabaster
Jar for Jesus
Christ?***



The Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel **Acts 15:7**

Believe the Gospel **Acts 15:7**

Repent of Sins **Acts 17:30**

Confess Christ **Acts 8:37**

Be Baptized **Acts 8:38**

