

**Does Your Worship Cost You Anything?**

It **MIGHT seem** like a **New Concept** to you

To **talk** about **The Cost of Worship**

What **WE most** often **think** of as **Worship** –

is **when** the **“Worship Team”** is **playing** - & we are **singing**

& please **hear me** - - - **I am** at the **FRONT of the LINE**

of **people** who **LOVE** that **time** on **Sunday Mornings**

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But – I **need to tell you**

**What** we do - **during** the **first 30 mins** of the **Church Service**

Is a Very **NARROW DEFINITION** of **Worship**

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**Today** – we’re **going to look** - at a **DEEPER Level** of **Worship**

& **we’re going** to ask **the Question**

**Does Your Worship Cost You Anything?**

Because - **Today** we **look at WORSHIP**

that **GOES FAR BEYOND** - **Music & Singing**

**Let’s Pray**

The Day after the Triumphal Entry

Jesus CLEANSED the Temple

of the Religious "Money Makers" – for the SECOND TIME

& that's when those Religious Leaders

Really stepped up their plans

to KILL Jesus - that was Mark Ch 11

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Then - The Parable of the Evil Farmers

(which was Directed AT the Religious Leaders)

started the BARRAGE of Attacks

that we called - The Multi-Round CAGE-FIGHT

between Jesus - & those Religious Leaders - Mark Ch 12

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Then – as kind of "An Interlude" to all the Madness

Jesus Paused on the Mt of Olives

to HELP us BE READY for the End Times – Mark Ch 13

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So - Since the day after The Triumphal Entry

Jesus has been BARRAGED with ATTACKS

that will ultimately end in his DEATH

& Right in the MIDDLE  
of all of that HATE & ANGER

Mark DROPS what May Be  
*The Most Beautiful Act of Worship* in the NT

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In Ch 14 - Mark SANDWICHES  
this Unparalleled - *Act of WORSHIP*  
Between two - *PICTURES of EVIL*

AND – Even *IN the MIDST* of this Incredible *Worship Experience*  
we see the *Sin-Nature* of Man

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What a Perfect Place – to Put on DISPLAY  
the *TRUE COST of Worship*

While Jesus is Absolutely Surrounded  
by *MURDER, DECEIT,* & Man's *SIN NATURE*

This is a PERFECT Setting – to Ask Ourselves  
*Does Your Worship Cost You Anything?*

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*Let's First See* – the *EVIL SANDWICH*

that this *COSTLY Act of Worship*  
is SET in the Middle of

Look first at Mark 14:1–2 (NLT)

## **Mark 14:1–2 (NLT)**

***1 It was now two days before Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The leading priests and the teachers of religious law were still looking for an opportunity to capture Jesus secretly and KILL HIM.***

***2 “But not during the Passover celebration,” they agreed, “or the people may riot.”***

So – **on** the **TOP HALF** of the **Sandwich**

We have **Religious Leaders** – **PLOTTING MURDER**

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& **then** – **Look** at the **BOTTOM HALF**  
**of** the **Sandwich**

## **Mark 14:10–11 (NLT)**

***10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests to arrange to betray Jesus to them.***

***11 They were delighted when they heard why he had come, and they promised to give him money. So he began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.***

### **ON the Top-Half**

the **Murderous Plot** of the **Religious Leaders**

### **ON the Bottom-Half**

The **BETRAYAL** of **one** of **Jesus’ Own**  
**Facilitating** his **Murder**

<p>&amp; <b><u>in</u></b> the <b><u>Middle</u></b> – <b><u>What Jesus</u></b> himself <b><u>calls</u></b> <b><u>“A Beautiful Act of Worship”</u></b></p>
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& in the MIDDLE of that WHOLE THING  
WE SEE - What the High Cost of Worship is

So - After ALL the MADNESS, & the ANGER, & the ATTACKS

Jesus finally – Gets Out of Town

He crests the hill of the Mt of Olives  
& Arrives back at BETHANY

His HOME away from HOME – while in Jerusalem

This was the only place - that Jesus could be comfortable  
While on the Battlefield in Jerusalem

BETHANY is where

Mary, Martha & Lazarus Lived - (*his dear friends*)  
& it's where Jesus Raised Lazarus from the dead

& Jesus needed this night of Refreshment - with his Friends

because he knew full-well  
what the next Two-Days held

& so we read – back up in Mark 14:3(a) (NLT)

*3 Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy . . .*

The assumption is – that Jesus had HEALED Simon of Leprosy  
& he had now become – The FRIEND of Jesus

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This same event is recorded in both MATTHEW & JOHN,  
although JOHN places it on a different day of this same week

& John tells us

Mary, Martha, & Lazarus were also at this Dinner

So – Jesus is with His Disciples - & His Best Friends

IN Bethany –where Jesus stayed

EVERY Night of His LAST week - except the night of his arrest

& tonight – at Simon's house

everything was in place

For an evening of Friends & Fellowship & Refreshment

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& then – something remarkable occurred

Mark 14:3(b) (NLT)

*3 . . . While he (Jesus) was eating, a woman (John says it was Mary) came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard. She broke open the jar and poured the perfume over his head.*

John adds - the house was filled with the incredible fragrance  
of this Most Costly Perfume

One commentator wrote

the fragrance of the expensive perfume

May have stayed with Jesus – all the way - to the Cross

**& then – John 12:3 adds (NLT)**

***3 . . . and she anointed Jesus' feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair . . .***

In **that day** – a **woman's hair**  
was **considered** - **Her GLORY**

& so **Mary** was **Anointing**  
the **Head of Jesus** as **her KING**

& **giving him** all her "**Glory**"  
by **wiping** his **FEET** with **her HAIR**

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**This** was a **Incredibly Costly**  
**ACT of Worship** – by **Mary**

As she **BROKE Open**  
& **POURED OUT** on **Jesus**

**What** was **Almost CERTAINLY**  
the **MOST VALUABLE THING** her **family** ever **OWNED**

In a **Phenomenal Display**  
Of **Worship & Sacrifice** to **Jesus**  
**Two Days before the Cross**

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& V.3 says this occurred - "While Jesus was eating"  
But the Word is actually RECLINING

Because the meal was more of  
a Long – Relaxed – Conversation

It was a Communion (a fellowship) of Friends

& each person would RECLINE on Cushions  
Around a very low table – (*talking, eating, being together*)

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& John says Mary Brought in

this Beautiful Alabaster Jar - of very expensive perfume  
which would've been imported from India

This was a MARBLE Jar – with a long neck

With a very SMALL hole in the top  
that you would get just one drop of Perfume out of

John describes the size of the bottle  
& it was ENOUGH - to last MORE than a LIFETIME

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& Both John & Mark – set the Value of the perfume  
at ONE YEAR'S WAGES

Which - Even using Minimum Wage – is \$28,000

& Every DROP of it – Was POURED OUT on Jesus  
in an EXTRAVAGANT ACT - of Worship

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Vs.3 says Mary had to break  
the NECK of the BOTTLE

In order to POUR OUT  
her Offering of Worship on Jesus

But – some would say – (& they WILL here in our text)

Mary, WHY Pour out the ENTIRE Offering

The bottle had a small hole at the top

Mary, You could've just put a DAB on your finger  
& done the sign of the cross on Jesus' forehead

That would've been enough – Mary?

Then you could've put a DAB on each foot

& the Fragrance would've been SO NICE  
& it wouldn't have COST YOU so Much, Mary

Mary, it's NOT Necessary  
to LAVISH – ALL of Your Worship On Jesus

NOBODY Does that Mary

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**Mary, You Don't have to Sacrifice it ALL**  
**To Worship Jesus**

**WHY NOT Balance it a little**

**WHY NOT Just POUR OUT a Few DROPS on Jesus**  
**Then you can Keep the Rest – for YOURSELF**

**THAT would've been the PRUDENT thing to do Mary**

**Don't BE SO EXTREME Mary**

**You Don't have to GIVE IT ALL to Jesus**  
**... DO YOU?**

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& **certainly** – **there** were **those**  
**MORE PRUDENT People** at the **Table**

**Because Mark 14:4 says (NLT)**  
**4 Some of those at the table were indignant . . .**

**This word** (for indignant) **MEANS:**  
**To feel a violent physical irritation**

Let's **read V.4** again – with the **Definition of Indignant** inserted

**Mark 14:4-5 (NLT)**  
**4 Some of those at the table [felt a violent physical irritation].**  
**“Why WASTE such expensive perfume?” they asked.**  
**5 “It could have been sold for a year's wages and the money**  
**given to the poor!” So they scolded her HARSHLY.**

**Why WASTE**

**Such an Expensive Outpouring of WORSHIP?**

**You know – Something REALLY PRODUCTIVE**

**Could've been done with all that Money?**

**Mary, Why did you WASTE all of that – ON JESUS?**

**& they were VIOLENTLY IRRITATED**

**At Mary's EXTRAVAGANT, COSTLY WORSHIP**

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**BUT - The WORST PART is**

These "Violently Irritated"

& "Scolding Harshly" People

**Were the Disciples of Jesus**

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**JOHN makes it clear –**

it was JUDAS ISCARIOT Leading this REBUKE

**But, when Mark says – at the end of V.5**

**THEY scolded her harshly**

**That puts at least SOME of the other disciples**

in this Group of HARSH CRITICIZERS

of Mary's COSTLY WORSHIP of Jesus

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So – HOW is Jesus going to Respond ?

**Mark 14:6 (NLT)**

***6 But Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. (I like that part) Why criticize her for doing such a good thing to me?”***

**Both the ESV & NIV say**

***“She has done a beautiful thing to me.”***

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**What Some of the Disciples called  
a WASTE of Worship**

**Jesus called “a Good and Beautiful thing.”**

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**& then – Jesus Expands – on How HE FEELS  
About this Extravagantly COSTLY - Act of Worship**

**Mark 14:7 (NLT)**

***7 You will always have the poor among you, and you can help them whenever you want to. But you will not always have me.***

**Jesus is NOT making light of Helping the Poor**

**There are well over 100 vs’s in the Bible  
about our Requirement – to help the poor**

**THAT – is NOT what THIS - is about**

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& So then **Jesus TELLS** his Disciples  
(Who **Should Have Known**) - - - **What THIS IS** About

**Mark 14:8 (NLT)**

***8 She has done what she could and has anointed my body for burial ahead of time.***

**Jesus** had **told** the **Disciples Over & Over**  
**Exactly How** This **Week** - was **going to End**

**THEY Didn't get it**  
**Because** they **Didn't WANT** to **Get It**

**But - Mary GOT IT**  
& **SHE** -was **DOING something about it**

**Look again** - at the **Beginning** of **V.8**  
**She did what she could**

**MARY KNEW**

that **She** had **the Opportunity** – **RIGHT THEN**  
to **Give ALL SHE HAD** to **Jesus** - **in Worship**  
**And . . . SHE DID**

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Mary **DID WHAT SHE COULD**

With **All That She Had**

in an **Extravagant Act of WORSHIP**

& Jesus Promised

His Critical & Tight-Fisted Disciples

That the Value of Mary's Worship

would Last - as Long as the Word of God lasts (which is forever)

Mark 14:9 (NLT)

*9 I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman's deed will be remembered and discussed."*

& We are Remembering it - & Discussing it - TODAY

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& So – What About – OUR WORSHIP

Should OUR WORSHIP - COST US Something?

Let's look at a few

"Personal Application" Scriptures – to close

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Let's Start with a similar act of Extravagant Worship

Just a few Vs's Up from our vs's today

In Mark 12:41 – Jesus Sat down in the Treasury

to WATCH people - Worshipping with their MONEY

& a Poor Widow came in

and Gave God - ALL that She had

In an Equally Extravagant - Costly Act - of Worship

This Poor Widow

Put in 2 small coins = to a PENNY

& Jesus gave her - the SAME ACCOLADE as MARY

Because "She gave ALL that she had – in WORSHIP"

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After a COSTLY SIN in King David's Life

He wanted to BUY the Threshing Floor on Mt MORIAH

In order to make offerings to God (*ultimately, Temple was built*)

And ARUNAH – who owned the Land

Offered to GIVE IT to King David

But – in 2 Samuel 24:24 – King David Replied (NLT)

*24 "... I will not present . . . offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing."*

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Have we Ever THOUGHT

about the COST of our Worship?

Have we Ever Asked ourselves

Does My Worship Cost Me Anything?

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**A Sacrifice is something that COSTS US**

It's **something GIVEN UP**  
In the **WORSHIP of GOD**

**But Remember**

**God is NOT Looking at the AMOUNT  
God is Looking at your HEART**

**The Widow's TWO-MITES - Got the SAME Response  
AS Mary's \$28,000 perfume**

**Because they BOTH – Gave Their ALL – in Worship**

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**Romans 12:1 (NLT)**

***1 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies (all that you are) to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.***

**What PART – of ALL that you Are**

**Has been Given – AS a Sacrifice – to Worship God?**

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**Some of you are thinking  
I'm Talking about JUST MONEY**

**& Certainly – MONEY is INVOLVED  
In MANY ACTS of Worship - in the Bible**

## **BUT – THE BIGGER PICTURE – IS THIS**

it is **Very Clear** – in **ALL the Bible**  
that **Worship** is **Centered Around**

**an ACTION** – of **GIVING to God**  
**what would otherwise** - be **VALUABLE** to **us**

**Worship Is About GIVING UP**  
What We **THINK IS VALUABLE**

In **order** to **GAIN** - What Is **TRULY VALUABLE**

**R. KENT HUGHES says (paraphrased)**

*Jesus wants something beautiful from us.  
Beautiful because it comes from our hearts.  
& beautiful because it is done solely for His glory.*

*Jesus wants us to put him before anything else.  
He wants us to do what we can.  
He wants every last drop of our devotion.*

**WHAT will That Level of Worship – COST YOU?**

**Let's Pray**