

HIGHER AIM

Alabaster Giving

Matthew 26:6-13

INTRODUCTION

Matthew Chapter 26 reveals the unique story of the Alabaster Box. It is very important because God wants us to understand everything about Alabaster Giving. It is a different kind of giving style altogether. This event is mentioned in all four Gospels, and as Jesus said, wherever the gospel is preached, what she has done will be told in memory of her. Jesus gave and gave and gave—but this is one of the few times when someone gave to Him. So this is a story we can learn a lot from.

KEY POINTS

1. Alabaster Giving is only done at the urging of the Holy Spirit.

This woman gave her perfume—worth about a year’s salary—not because of manipulation, guilt, or pressure, but because of gratitude. She was led by the Holy Spirit. She simply followed the tug of the Spirit and honored the One who changed her life. When we are in tune with the Holy Spirit, He will guide how, where, and when we give. Alabaster Giving must be Spirit-led, not promoted or programmed.

2. Alabaster Giving always follows the giving of self first.

Before she gave the perfume, she gave herself to Christ. In 2 Corinthians 8:5, Paul said of the Macedonians, “They gave themselves first of all to the Lord.” People who complain about giving often haven’t surrendered themselves to Jesus. But when we give ourselves to God, everything we have becomes His. Her giving flowed out of her love and surrender.

3. Alabaster Giving will always be misunderstood.

The disciples were indignant, thinking the perfume should have been sold and the money given to the poor. When God leads you to give sacrificially, others—including your children or friends—may not understand. They may see it as a waste. But you are not responsible for others; you are responsible for obeying God. Even if misunderstood, Alabaster Giving honors Christ.

NOTES

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When the disciples criticized her, she didn't speak a word. But Jesus stepped in and defended her, saying, "She has done a beautiful thing to me." Jesus always stands up for those who are obedient to Him. He validated her gift, and He will validate yours.

God wants the best, not our leftovers. In the Old Testament, He required unblemished offerings. Alabaster Givers don't give what is convenient; they give what is costly. God desires Isaacs, not Ishmaels—Abel's best, not Cain's crops. He is worthy of our best.

Whenever you give graciously to the church or ministry, you are anointing the body of Christ. Your gift impacts the Kingdom. Alabaster Giving is about blessing Christ and His people through radical generosity.

Although this woman gave publicly, she didn't say a word. Jesus taught us not to sound a trumpet when we give. Silent acts of love have musical voices in the ears of Jesus. Alabaster Giving seeks no spotlight, no applause—only Christ's glory.

Jesus recognized her act as preparation for His burial. Our giving should point to the cross. Salvation begins just like Alabaster Giving—it's a once-for-all surrender. We give not out of abundance but out of a big heart. The goal is not recognition but honoring the crucified and risen Christ.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Have you ever experienced the Holy Spirit prompting you to give in a specific way? How did you respond?
2. Why do you think people misunderstand sacrificial giving? How can we respond when our giving is questioned?
3. What is one practical way you can begin giving more like the woman with the alabaster jar?
