

## Famous Givers Part 2 - Love Verses Guilt

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### Message to Conversation Guide

### Key Texts

#### Mark 14:1-9

1 Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill him. 2 "But not during the Feast," they said, "or the people may riot."

3 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." NIV (see also [Matt. 26:6-13](#))

#### John 12:1-8

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 **Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.**

4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

7 "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "[It was intended] that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." NIV

### **John 21:15-18**

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, **do you truly love me more than these?**" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

16 Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." 17 The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. NIV

## **Discussion Questions**

1. When Mary poured the ointment on the head and feet of Jesus - from a financial standpoint how significant was this gift? What was the monetary value of this gift?
2. The ointment in the alabaster box was probably her most important and valuable possession. This alabaster box was perhaps the thing that she loved most in life. Discuss the fact that we are not willing to give up something we love unless we love something more than that object.
3. There are two ways we can give. We can give out of guilt or we can give out of love. Discuss this dynamic that when we give out of guilt the giving hurts but when we give out of love it doesn't hurt.
4. Mary's gift to Jesus was solely motivated by love. She was totally focused on Jesus when she poured the ointment upon Jesus. Discuss how our giving should be Jesus be focused on Jesus.
5. Our money always chases what we love. Whatever we love most in life we surrender our money to. How does giving relate to our love of Jesus? Outside of Christ what things do you love that you are always willing to spend your money on?
6. How does the verse below convey the connection between our money and our heart?

### **Matt 6:19-21**

*19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do*

*not break in and steal. 21 **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.** NIV*

7. Jesus asked Peter do you love me more than these. Discuss the principle that giving is about loving Jesus more than anything our money can buy.