

SERMON NOTES:

Series: Mark -The Simple Gospel | Week 46: A Beautiful Gift from a Beautiful Heart

Mark 14:1-11 (NLT) *Jesus Anointed at Bethany*

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.”

³ Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy. While he was eating, a woman 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.

⁴ Some of those at the table were indignant. “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.

⁶ But Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. Why criticize her for doing such a good thing to me? 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. ⁸ She has done what she could and has anointed my body for burial ahead of time. ⁹ I tell you the truth, wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman’s deed will be remembered and discussed.”

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

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.

John 12:4-6 (NLT)

⁴ But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, ⁵ “That perfume was worth a year’s wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.” ⁶ Not that he cared for the poor—he was a thief, and since he was in charge of the disciples’ money, he often stole some for himself.

3 MARKS OF BETRAYERS

Betrayal comes from those whom you love, trust, and have invited into your inner circle.

Betrayers almost always justify their actions with good sounding intentions.

Betrayers always act out because of hidden sin.

IN CONTRAST, A BEAUTIFUL GIFT OF DEVOTION

The beauty of the woman’s sacrifice is that she held nothing back.

Jesus defends her worship:

First, because he was aware of her loving motive.

The second reason it was beautiful is that it came from a spontaneous response to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

The third reason it was beautiful was because it was not born of practicality.

Total commitment is what Jesus deserves from each of us.

Romans 12:1 (NLT)

¹ And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies 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.