



***Secrets of
Wholehearted
Worship***

December 13, 2023

Secrets of Wholehearted Worship

Mark 14:9 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.“

- Wholehearted Worship Has A Significant And Long-lasting Effect On Our Life

Secrets of Wholehearted Worship

(Mark 14:3-9 NIV) 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."

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This Takes Place At Bethany -- At The Home Of Simon The Leper

- Simon Is A Former Leper Who Had Suffered At The Hands Of One Of The Cruellest Diseases Of All: Leprosy

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In The Ancient World Leprosy Was The Worst Disease To Have

- The Person Who Had Leprosy Was As Good As Dead -- As This Disease Would Separate Them From The Rest Of The Community
- After His Healing -- Simon The Leper Puts Together A Dinner Party In Honor Of Jesus His Healer

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Mark 14:3 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.

- This Woman Was Mary, The Sister Of Martha And Lazarus. Mary Is Once Again Sitting At The Feet Of Jesus
- *When Jesus Speaks About What Is About To Happen -- Nobody Gets It Except Mary Who Understands Jesus*

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Mary Brought To Jesus An Alabaster Jar Filled With Expensive Perfume

- To Keep Their Money Secure, People Would Often Invest In Costly Perfumes Or Ointments That Could Be Hidden
- The Oil Was Derived From The Nard Plant -- Native To India. It Came From A Great Distance
- Nard Was Not Easy To Gather -- It Was Very Valuable
- It Was The Real Thing -- Which Made It So Costly.

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We See The Heart Of Mary --A True Whole-Hearted Worshipper Of Christ

She Broke The Jar And Poured The Perfume On His Head

- Signifying Her Willingness To Give Up Everything In Order To Devote Herself Wholeheartedly To Him
- She Broke The Jar & Wasn't Holding Any Back
- Her Devotion Was Sincere And Total

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She Was Intense & Fervent -- Devoted In Her Worship --
As Much As Anyone, Anywhere In Scripture

- Mary Isn't Concerned About What Everyone Else Is Thinking --
She Is There To Worship The Lord With Everything In Her

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Even With Those Good Intentions And That Good Heart -- There Are Those Who Just Don't See It:

Mk 14:4-5. 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.*"

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Judas Was The Instigator Of The Upset

- A Man Very Close To Christ In Physical Proximity --But Very Far From Christ In Heart
- It Is Not Enough To Be Close To Christ -- The Question Is Does He Have Your Heart?

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Others Were Swayed – They Bought Into Judas’ Argument

- Mark 14:5b “And They Rebuked Her Harshly.”

Thinking That They Know The Mind Of Jesus, They Register Two Complaints:

1. *First, The Perfume Is Wasted.*
2. *Second, The Expensive Oil Could Have Been Sold With The Proceeds Going To The Poor*

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Judas And The Disciples Hone Their Attack On Mary:

- *This Is Bad Stewardship*
- *Where Is Your Compassion*
- *Jesus, How Could You Let Her Do This?*
- *What A Waste*

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So... They Rebuked Her Harshly... The NKJV translation, “*And they criticized her sharply*” (v. 5) is not biting enough. In the original Greek, the word for criticism is a verb that is used in other instances to describe the snorting of horses.

- *Judas Stirred Up Hostility. Yet, He Could Care Less About The Poor*
- *He Wanted For Himself What That Money Would Bring*
- *Others Believed His Manipulative Argument*
- *Judas Had An Agenda. The Others Could Not See Thru The Deception -- So They Bought In*

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Jesus Has An Answer: The Poor Will Always Be With You

Mk 14:7. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me.

- The Thing That Justified The Woman's Extravagant Act Of Anointing Him With That Expensive Perfume -- Was The Fact That Jesus Was Soon Going To Go To Calvary To Die

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Lesson 1: Don't Settle For "Good" When The "Great" Is Called For

Lesson 2: Don't Judge Someone Else's Gift -- Who Are You To Do So -- There Is Only One Judge -- And He Will Do So

- We As Christians Are To Worship God *And* Minister To Others
- One Without The Other Falls Far Short Of The Dynamic That Christ Wants For Us

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Lesson 3: Some People Are Out Of Step And Don't Want To Get In Step -- Instead Of Encouraging -- They Criticize.

- *More Important Than What Others Think And Say Is What Does God Say?*
- Be Like Mary Who Was Signifying That She Was Ready To Give Up Everything, Even Marriage, In Order To Devote Herself Completely, Tenderly, Wholeheartedly To Him

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This Is A Story Of Wholehearted Worship

- Mary Did What She Could With All That She Had
- The Only Kind Of Sacrifice, That Makes Sense On Our Part Is A Complete Sacrifice

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One Question That Surfaces:

Is Our Devotion To Christ, Costing Us Anything?

- The Truth Is: Extravagant Worship Is Expensive. It Is Doing What We Can Do With All That We Have To Offer
- *Even Though It Was Costly* -- Mary's Worship Was Not Difficult For Her Because Jesus Already Had Her Heart

Secrets of Wholehearted Worship

In True Worship -- We Give Him In Our Heart, And Everything Else Follows -- Our Lips -- Our Hands -- Our Feet -- Even Our Bank Accounts -- Our Time -- Our Talents -- Our All