

Total Devotion to Jesus

This evening at sundown, in the Hebraic calendar, Jewish people celebrate Yom Kippur, which lasts about 25 hours. It is the holiest day in Judaism, & is known as the Day of Atonement. This is a time when people fast, pray and confess their sins before the Lord in self-examination according to **Lev. 16:30**, “*For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord.*”. The Jewish wise men taught that each person must first forgive his neighbor before asking forgiveness from the Lord. Christians have the Lord Jesus Christ as our Atonement (**Rom. 3:25**). **Heb. 9:5** “**mercy seat**”, the lid of gold above the ark of the covenant, which is the place of atonement. **SFLB WW**: “The root meaning of *hilasterion* (**mercy seat**) is that of appeasing and placating an offended god. Applied to the sacrifice of Christ in that regard, the word suggests that Christ’s death was [appeasing], averting the wrath of God from the sinner.” Let’s look at our Sinless Savior who shed His blood on Heaven’s mercy seat for all mankind.

Difference in Days in Scripture

Mark 14:1-9 (and **Matt. 26:6-13**) **Two days before the Passover & Feast of Unleavened Bread.** (These have a chronological difference with **John 12**, as ancient gospel writers did not always write in a strict chronological timeline as in modern days [**John 12:1-11** says it was six days before the Passover began]).

The Plot to Kill Jesus

Mark 14:1-2 NKJV “*After two days it was the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests & the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery (“deception”) and put Him to death. 2. But they said, “Not*

during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people.” During the Passover, hundreds of thousands of people would crowd into Jerusalem, many of whom would perhaps be followers of Jesus. If an uproar ensued, the Roman authorities intervene, and the Jewish authorities didn’t want that. We are talking here about a conspiracy to murder a perfectly innocent man who violated Jewish Sabbath laws, did miracles and claimed to be God’s Son.

The Anointing at Bethany

V. 3a *“And being in Bethany at the house of **Simon the leper**, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard (or “perfume of pure nard”). In **John 12:3**, John identifies the woman as Mary of Bethany. **TPT***

note: “We are all cleansed lepers, symbolized by Simon. Christ left the religious structure of the temple and went into the house of a leper. Former “lepers” are now the true temple of God.”

V. 3b *Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head. 4. But there were some who were indignant among themselves and said, “Why was this fragrant oil wasted? 5. For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they **criticized** (or “scolded,” **expressing anger**; speaking or acting with deep feeling.) her sharply.” Beware of criticism that is an expression of deep-seated anger. The disciple was critical because a denarii was a day’s wages, & 300 denarii was worth almost a year’s wages!*

What do we have to give Him?

What “deep feelings” do we harbor that make us angry/lash out?

Let’s replace them with Holy Spirit’s grace & God’s truth/love!

Jesus is a Friend of Sinners & So Should We Be

Luke 15:1-7 Jesus associates with notorious sinners & is **criticized**. We must not be moved by the criticism of others if we are doing God's will God's way.

Mk. 14:6. *"But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. 7. For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always."* **SFLB note:** "The inference is, "It is appropriate to give to Me while I am still with you." Service that will have no other opportunity takes preference over perpetual duties." **8.** *She has done what she could. She has come beforehand **to anoint My body for burial.**"* In **Matt. 3:16** Jesus was anointed for ministry. Now, with costly oil, He is anointed for His burial.

There are situations in our lives that God has ordained for us to walk through, perhaps painful at the time, but they prepare us for the furtherance of God's purposes in the Kingdom. The anointing that will be produced makes room for the release of Holy Spirit's power & love that are irreplaceable by anything else.

V. 9 *"Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."* The greater the sacrifice, the greater the reward, perhaps not in this life, but eventually!

The Example of Jesus

Notice how Jesus humbled Himself: Phil. 2:6-11 TPT, *"He existed in the form of God, yet He gave no thought to seizing equality with God as His supreme prize (or "as something to be exploited"). 7. Instead, He emptied Himself of His **outward glory** (or "His privileges") by reducing Himself to the form of a lowly servant. He became human! 8. He humbled Himself and became vulnerable, choosing to be revealed as a man and was*

*obedient. He was a perfect example, even in His death – a criminal’s death by crucifixion! **SFLB note:** “He veiled the manifestations of deity and assumed real humanity. **Likeness** (of men) suggests that Jesus was really a man, but not merely a man. His humanity was genuine, yet His being was still divine.”*

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Jesus was “in tune*” with the Father. Before great events in His life or before He made important decisions, He sought the Father. And so should we. **John 5:19 TPT** “So Jesus said, “I speak to you timeless truth. The Son is not able to do anything from Himself or through His own initiative. I only do the works that I see the Father doing, for the Son does the same works as His Father.”

*“In agreement; harmony; precise functioning.

Phil. 2:9. *Because of that obedience, God exalted Him and multiplied His greatness! He has now been given the greatest of all names! 10. The authority of the Name of Jesus causes every knee to bow in reverence! Everything and everyone will one day submit to this Name – in the heavenly realm, in the earthly realm, and in the demonic realm (or “heaven, earth and under the earth”). 11. And every tongue will proclaim in every language: “Jesus Christ is Lord YAHWEH,” bringing glory and honor to God, His Father!” **TPT:** “This verse makes it clear that the name given to Jesus at His exaltation was “Lord Yahweh”.*

Jesus’ Glory Becomes Ours

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John 17:22 TPT *“For the very glory You have given to Me I have given them so that they will be joined together as one and experience the same unity that we enjoy.” **TPT note:** “It is important to note that the key to unity among believers is experiencing the glory of God that Jesus has imparted to us. As one with God through faith in Christ, He shares His glory with*

us, since we are not “another,” but have been made one with the triune God through the blood of Jesus.”

- **John 17:23 TPT** *“You live fully in Me and now I live fully in them so that they will **experience perfect unity** (Aramaic: “shrink into one”), and the world will be convinced that you have sent Me, for they will see that You love each one of them with the same passionate love that You have for Me.”*

“You are God’s Beloved Child”

How great is God’s love (**Rom. 8:14-16**)! So let’s give the Lord Jesus our **total devotion** without reservation as much as we can, and trust Him to protect what has been entrusted to Him.