

13. THE WASTE PREEMINENCE & EXTRAVAGANCE

“I HAVE NEVER MADE A SACRIFICE.” - DAVID LIVINGSTONE

I. MARY OF BETHANY, A FRIEND OF JESUS

- A. Devotion to Jesus: [Luke 10:38-42](#)
 - 1) ‘[man does not live by bread alone](#)’ if anyone needed to go hungry that day, it needed to be Jesus so that they could feast on His words
- B. Revelation of the Resurrection: [John 11:20-44](#)
 - 1) “[I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day](#)” Martha had really good theology
 - 2) “[Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?](#)” trials and tribulations sift and perfect our faith
- C. One Chance to Bust the Alabaster: [John 12:1-8](#) and [Matthew 26:1-16](#)
 - 1) “[you will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me](#)” ([Deuteronomy 15:11](#))
 - 2) there is no way Jesus did not still smell like the oil when He was being lashed a few days later
 - 3) Mary is the template of the disciple Jesus looks for: has clarity on His purposes, hangs on His every word, and holds nothing back
 - 4) Jesus’ “[son of man](#)” claim really riled people up, but Judas’s offense at extravagant devotion is what got Jesus killed
 - 5) the incident in [Luke 7:36-50](#) is not the same incident as the John and Matthew accounts came on the heels of Jesus’ vindication of John the Baptist
- D. Mary of Bethany: a Picture of the Bride Made Ready
 - 1) something inside Mary clicked when she met Jesus outside of Lazarus’s tomb; six days later, she had one moment where revelation and opportunity met - and she took it
 - 2) devotion to Jesus constantly brought criticism to Mary. If obedience or devotion to Jesus requires that you violate cultural norms or social expectations, you must be counter-cultural and allow Jesus to vindicate you
 - a) [Psalm 45:10-12](#)
 - 3) every future apostolic leader was in the room when Mary anointed Jesus, and they all jumped on the train of accusations spearheaded by Judas the traitor

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- E. Waste and Worst-Case Scenarios
- 1) what was Mary's life like 10, 30, etc., years later? Did she ever regret it
 - 2) I marvel that the majority of those who are proclaiming the gospel in the hardest places are the ones who are, culturally, the least likely and welcome
 - 3) "my life, on the human side, was broken, and it never was mended again. But He has been enough" – Amy Carmichael
 - 4) [Philippians 3:7-16](#)

II. YOU HAVE ONE LIFE, ONE SHOT

- A. You get one shot to go all in; do not hold back or you will regret it when you see Jesus. Not that you lived a perfect life and wouldn't do anything differently; but if you do the best you can with what you have and Jesus gets everything, there is nothing to regret.
- 1) [Hebrews 9:27-28](#)

III. DON'T LOOK BACK LUKE 9:23-27, 57-62

- A. He Sees It All
- 1) [2 Chronicles 16:9](#)
 - a) I would rather my life be a demonstration of the Lord's strength instead of my own. I have nothing to offer
- B. He Will Forget Nothing but Your Sin and He Will Reward Everything Obedience Cost You
- 1) [Mark 9:41, Matthew 10:42](#)
 - 2) [Hebrews 6:10](#)
 - 3) [Matthew 19:23-30](#)
 - 4) away with the word "sacrifice"; say rather, "it is a privilege"