

Love Poured Out

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-9 Larry: The Stir. Real Tues. Colina. Holocaust Memorial(info booth). Iraq.
- B. Slide10 Baby Dedication 3rd: Jordan & Jennifer Bursch. *August Noah Bursch*. Harper.
- C. Slide11 Here's the copy of *the Recorded Document* that shows we are **DEBT FREE**.
We couldn't have accomplished this w/o the efforts of *Bob Tyler & Jennifer Bursch* and the staff of *Tyler/Bursch*.
- D. Children at Risk Mtg: Cancelled this month, fell on *Easter*.
- E. Slide12-14 Good Friday & Easter: *grab invite cards in info booth*. [abr_apologetics]

II. Slide15 **Intro:** *Love Poured Out*

- A. Slide16 Palm Sun Pic - & bulletin cover story. [we're 3 days ahead of Palm Sun in our text]
- B. At this point, Matthew's narrative shifts from **Jesus' ministry and teaching to the events that lead to His death**.
- C. Here we have once again Jesus giving us one of His *high contrast stories*.
 1. Slide17a The best way to see the effect of contrast is by examining a b/w photo
 2. **In fact**, b/w images are pretty blah without a good amount of *contrast*.
 3. It's the *contrast* between the subject & the background that makes the subject stand out. The eye is naturally drawn to **light**.
- D. We can also see this contrast in texture, **a Pearl** placed in between 2 ugly shells/oyster.
[Plot to kill Jesus. *Anointing of Jesus*. Judas agrees to betray]
 1. Slide17b Outline: *Plotting. Anointing. Betraying*.
 2. The Religious leaders were meeting to **Plot** against Jesus.
His friend was coming to show her **Love & Devotion** to Him.
His Treasurer/Apostle was meeting to **Betray** Him.

III. Slide18 **PLOTTING (1-5)**

- A. They were afraid to do it at the feast, **lest there be an uproar of the people**.

1. Jesus was surrounded by 1000's of Galilean pilgrims who would take his side.

IV. Slide19 ANOINTING (6-13)

A. Same story as Mark14 & Jn.12.

1. *Not same* as Lk.7:36-50 (she was a sinner/harlot; *at* Simon the Pharisees house)

B. Slide20a Bethany was a village on the slopes of *Mount of Olives* less than 2m from Jer.

1. Pilgrims traveling from *Jericho to Jerusalem for Passover*, a journey of 15mi, would pass through Bethany.

2. 3 famous siblings resided there: Lazarus, Martha, and Mary.

- a) **John** told us they all were at this feast. What wonderful table conversations, *especially because Lazarus was already raised from the dead.*

C. Simon the Leper – We don't know anything about this Simon.

1. Probably a leper healed earlier by Jesus.

2. Slide20b *The Dead Sea Scrolls* attest to a leper colony near Bethany, adding plausibility to the event taking place at the home of Simon the leper.

D. He/Jesus sat or reclined at the table (Mark 14:3)

1. Feet anointed in John & Mark. Head in Matt. [explain sitting posture]

E. Slide21 Alabaster flask – it resembled white marble.

1. This substance, the *Oriental alabaster* of the Ancient Egyptians & Bible times came from the Far East. It was highly esteemed for making small perfume bottles called *alabastra*.

2. Usually sealed so well *for shipping* you had to **break** the very delicate neck of the small flask to open it.

- a) Perhaps an expression of the **wholeheartedness** of her devotion.

3. **Eastern custom** was that if a vessel was used to serve a distinguished guest it should then be destroyed in order that it was never used for anybody of lesser importance.

4. I wonder if we take that same philosophy into *our worship* of Jesus?
[lil dab or whole flask?]

F. Do we use our worship sparingly? [or lavishly]

G. *Oil, of spikenard* from Mk – or, perfume.

1. An aromatic herb (from the roots/stems) native to N. India. [Grown in Himalayan Mnt's]
2. SoS 1:12 **While the king is at his table, My spikenard sends forth its fragrance.**
 - a) What perfume do you give off at His table? In His world?

H. **Very costly** – 300 denarii (i.e. a years wage, from Mark 14)

1. What do you make in a year? (put that price on it for our lesson this morning)
2. Was it a family heirloom? Was it her dowry?
3. This was an Extravagant Love. It's Crazy Love. Enamored. Smitten. Passionate. Breath taking generosity. [it wasn't a worship that was just trying to get by]
 - a) In which way have you shown *Extravagant love* to the Lord?
 - b) It's when friends/family say...*ok, that's taking this Christianity thing a little too far!*

I. You might think...**but** I'm fresh out of *Alabaster flasks!* Well, we can all give Him the best of our **love**, best of our **years** (in our vigor, strength, manhood/womanhood), & best of our **talents**. *Like Miss Frances Havergal's beautiful consecration hymn. 1836-1879*

1. **Slide22** Take my **life**, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
 Take my **moments** and my **days**; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
 Take my **hands**, and let them move At the impulse of Thy love.
 Take my **feet**, and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.
 Take my **voice**, and let me sing, Always, only, for my King.
 Take my **lips**, and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.
 Take my **silver** and my **gold**; Not a mite would I withhold.
 Take my **intellect**, and use Every power as Thou shalt choose.
 Take my **will**, and make it Thine; It shall be no longer mine.
 Take my **heart**, it is Thine own; It shall be Thy royal throne.
 Take my **love**; my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure-store.
 Take **myself**, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

J. **Slide23a** All of the disciples seem to have a part in this, **but** John (12:4) lets us know it was **Judas** who was the ring leader/main complainer in this.

1. In Jn.12:6 **This he said**(Judas), **not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.**

- a) So Judas w/calculator in hand, knew **the price** of *everything* & **the value** of *nothing*.¹
- K. **Slide23b Wasted?** (*apoleia*) – Interesting, this same word is translated **perdition** in Jn.17:12 & applied to Judas, **none of them is lost except the son of perdition**.
1. Judas criticized Mary for **wasting money**, **but he wasted his entire life**.
 2. It is a dangerous thing for Christians to judge one another. **Because** Judas called Mary's worship **waste**, **but Jesus** said it was **a lasting memorial**.
- L. **Have you ever thought** someone went **over the top** in their giving?
1. Is it possible to give **too much** to Jesus?
 2. What is the most important thing **you** could give Him?
- M. **Did their minds** get too occupied w/the **work** of **the kingdom** **that** they lost sight of **the King**?
1. Was the ministry becoming a business to be budgeted **rather than** a **Savior to be served**?
- N. Mary's **act of worship** brought **joy** to the heart of **Jesus** & **malice** to the heart of **Judas**.
- O. Jesus is **quick to her defense** & steps in between her *and* her attackers.
1. **Slide24 Rom.8:33,34 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us**
 2. No matter what others say about our worship & service, the most important thing is that **we please the Lord**.
 3. Just know, **living your life for Jesus will look like waste to this world**.
 - a) **But** our concern is **His** approval alone.
- P. **Slide25a She has done a good work for me** – (NIV) *She has done a beautiful thing to me*.
1. Johns account adds, **And the house was filled w/the fragrance of the oil**.^{12:3}
 - a) There's always a **spiritual fragrance** in that home where J.C. is **loved & worshiped**.

¹ Kent Hughes, Mark, pg.146.

2. Ken Gire writes, On the cross, stripped of His clothing, Jesus would wear only the perfume that Mary had lavished upon his hair. It was that perfume which filled his nostrils & covered the stench of mockers rabbed around the cross... *Slide25b* The Savior had come to earth to break an alabaster jar for humanity. And Mary had come that night to break one for Him. It was a jar He never regretted breaking. Nor did she.²
- Q. *Slide25c* Other women came to anoint Him *after* His burial; *but* Mary did it *when* He could be encouraged by her love.
1. Too many men have felt the grief...that they waited until their wife's funeral to send them flowers. :(
 2. What a simple token of love to send someone flowers this week...*just because*. (Don't tell them that this is instead of sending them to their funeral!)
 - a) Break out your best perfume for *the living*.
- R. What's been the greatest gift come your way?
1. Mical as a toddler bringing me dandelions [A beautiful gift comes from a beautiful heart]
 2. I bet Jesus has a lot of *strange things* in His treasury: "*widow's pennies, cups of water, broken alabaster vases, dandelions.*"
 3. Has He anything of yours in His Treasury?
- S. (11) Was Jesus implying a lack of concern for the poor? Of course not.
1. *And now that He is no longer with us* (phys on earth) *so maybe* by ministering to the poor in Iraq we r ministering to *Jesus...oh yah, we read that last week* (vs.35)
- T. *She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial* - anyone who faces a criminal's death faces the threat of being cast into a criminal's grave *w/o anointing, w/o proper burial*.
- U. *Slide26* (13) *Gospel + this story* - *what a story!*
- V. *So we learned:* Worship *costs* us something. Worship is often *misunderstood*. Worship can be *embarrassing*. Worship is *Never waste*. Worship is *defended* by Jesus.

² Intimate Moment's, pg.83

Worship is a **good work**. Worship is **for Him alone**. Worship is **aromatic** (changing a former *lepers home* to a **temple**).

1. *You can never waste something, when you pour it out, in worship of the One with limitless value.* Let me encourage us to....*Break The Box!*

V. Slide27 **BETRAYING (14-16)**

A. Perhaps he was still angry at *the loss of money* (8).

1. How sad it all came down to this...*they promised to give him money.*
2. Congratulations Judas, you helped them solve their problem of how to arrest *Him* w/o causing a riot during the feast.
3. Here is the basest act of treachery in history.
 - a) Though Judas shared **Jesus' company**, he never shared **His Spirit**.

B. Slide28a *Et tu, Judas?* An inside job. [*So, what is Jesus worth?* 30 pieces of silver...the going price of a slave]

1. Judas thought **Jesus** was only worth *the price of the cheapest slave*.
 - a) Slide28b Ex.21:32 *If the ox gores a male or female servant, he shall give to their master **thirty shekels of silver**.*
2. (Old English couplet) *Still as of old. Man by himself is priced.
For 30 pieces of silver Judas sold **himself**...not Christ.*

C. He doesn't seem to be *a monster of evil*, but instead simply **selfish**.

1. Which led to **insincerity** as a disciple; **falseness** as an apostle; **theft** as a man; and **perdition** as a traitor. [*perdition* = destruction]

D. Slide29 *Mary was...a blessing to Jesus* as she shared her love;
A blessing to her home, as it filled the whole house w/its fragrance;
A blessing to her despisers as it would have blest their nostrils;
To her village as Bethany is recorded for ever as the village in which this took place;
And to the whole world...and still is.

E. **Prayer:** Lord, teach us when to **sell** the perfume for the poor, & when to **shower** it on You

1. Help us **not to cling** to any *Alabaster jar* of our own.
 Help us to lavish You not only w/our **treasures** but also w/our **tears**.