

Spy/Silent Wednesday

4-1-26

What Is Jesus Worth To You?

I. Announce:

- A. If you're **watching online**, welcome and *Find any perfume*, and **spray or dab** a little on the back of your hand (I'll talk about it later).
- B. **Slide1-3** Holy Week. **Crosswalk**. Res.
- C. **Slide4a Prayer**: Lord, prepare our hearts *evening by evening* as we journey together towards **Easter**. - **Jesus** tell my mom Happy B-day for me, thanks.

II. Slide4b Intro:

- A. **Ask**: Why do we call it ... **Spy Wednesday** or **Silent Wednesday**?
 1. **Silent?** - Nothing publicly happening with Jesus that day.
 2. **Spy?** - Judas embedded in the 12.
 3. **Timing**: Mt.26:1,2 *When Jesus had finished all these sayings (ch.24,25), he said to his disciples, 2 You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.*
 4. **So** after days of public teaching, confrontation, and miracles earlier in the week ... the story **suddenly goes quiet**. **But the silence is not empty**. **Behind the scenes, betrayal was forming, but so was worship.**
- B. **Picture Two Rooms** in Jerusalem. On that Wed before the cross, **Two** very different rooms in Jerusalem:
 1. **In one room, Judas** (the **spy** embedded in the camp for 3 yrs) was plotting how to **betray** Jesus. **In another room ... a woman** was pouring out her most expensive possession in **worship**.
 2. **2 rooms. 2 responses** to the same Savior. **And 1** question for us tonight: **Slide4c What Is Jesus Worth To You?**
- C. **Big Idea**: Everyone assigns a value to **Jesus**, your **life reveals** *what you believe He's worth!*
- D. **Slide5 Value?** - **ask**: What's the most expensive thing you've ever held?

1. Slide6 What determines value, price tag or personal worth?

a) Illustration: **My treasure chest.**

b) On that Wednesday 2000 yrs ago, **two** people encounter **Jesus** in the same week ... **one** gives everything, **one** sells Him off.

III. Slide7a **THE BETRAYAL – JESUS WAS WORTH SELLING**

A. Mt. 26:14-16 *Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him **thirty pieces of silver**. 16 And from that moment he sought an opportunity to **betray** him.*

1. Judas traded **Jesus** for 30 pieces of silver. Roughly **four months** wages.

2. He had walked with Jesus for **3 years**, yet **still valued money more**.

a) **Judas** didn't reject **Jesus** outright - he priced Him! ;(

(1) **30 pieces** - price of a slave. [*“Jesus, I think you're worth **the cheapest slave**”*]

(2) **Also** we note, **Judas** “*sold Christ*” but actually - he really sold **himself!**

b) **Proximity** to Jesus *does not equal* devotion to Jesus.

B. Slide7b Reflection: *Is there anything I'm holding onto more tightly than Jesus? - You may not be selling Jesus for silver, but **are you** trading Him for something less?*

IV. Slide8 **THE WORSHIP – JESUS WAS WORTH EVERYTHING**

A. Mt. 26:6-13 *Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came up to him with an **alabaster flask** of **very expensive ointment**, and she poured it on his head as he **reclined** at table (& feet, Jn.12). 8 And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying (Judas Jn.12), “Why this **waste**? 9 For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.” 10 But **Jesus**, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a **beautiful** thing to me. 11 For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. 12 In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to **prepare me for burial**. 13 Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the*

whole world (even Murrieta), *what she has done will also be told in memory of her.*”

B. A Powerful Moment:

1. She **breaks** an **alabaster jar**. The jar itself was **costly**. That was **Total surrender** - as it could never be used again). [*once you snap the neck of bottle*]
2. The **perfume** was **costly**, worth a year's wages.
3. She pours it out **completely** (no holding back).
4. She does it **publicly** (risk of embarrassment).
5. She does it **personally** (at His feet).

a) Mary didn't *calculate* - she **surrendered**. What looked **wasteful** to others was **worship** to Jesus. [*Worship* always looks *extravagant* to people who *don't understand Jesus' worth*].

C. When you see Jesus clearly, you stop asking '*How little can I give?*' and start asking '*What else can I give?*'

1. **High school**: maybe that looks like, reputation, social identity, future plans.
2. **Adults**: maybe that looks like, comfort, control, finances, your time.

D. **Slide9 Jesus says** something remarkable: *She has done a beautiful thing to me.*

1. In a week filled with **betrayal and hatred**, **this act of love** stood out to **Jesus**.

E. **Reflection**: *What is Jesus worth to you?*

F. **Slide10** In John's account he adds, *Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.* John 12:3

1. **Nard** - **Spikenard** - a flowering plant in the **honeysuckle** family which grows in *the Himalayas of Nepal*. Its **underground horizontal stems** are crushed and distilled into *an intensely aromatic, amber-colored essential oil with a thick consistency*. (essential = the oil contains the fragrance or essence of the plant).
2. ***Smell the Spikenard on the back of your hand.** (online also)

3. Sometimes **smell** *bypasses analysis* and goes straight to **memory** and **affection**. Which makes the text present, *not abstract*.

G. *Slide11* Ken Gire. 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 and covered the stench of mockers rabbled around the cross ... **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**.¹

H. What would fill the room if **my devotion** were poured out?

V. TONIGHT, WE SIMPLY BRING JESUS WHAT WE HAVE

A. *But before we do - Gospel Flip -* **Mary** gave expensive perfume. **Judas** sold Jesus for silver. **But Jesus** gave His life for you! *Pause*

1. He **didn't** negotiate your value. He **didn't** hold back. **Slide12* **The cross answers the question of your worth!**

B. **Some of us bring:** our fears. our regrets. our sin. our control.

C. **Some bring:** our gratitude. our love. our surrender.

1. The woman broke the jar because Jesus was worth **everything**.
2. **Tonight we bring our hearts.**

D. **Small Card time:** take a few minutes! (online it will be quiet for a bit - silent Wed)

1. Read card front/back. **Slide13 Point to Keynote xtra. no name. tossed after.*
2. **During this instrumental** come forward and place your card in the **bowls**, *As an act of Surrender and Worship.*

After if time:

E. **Do you have the fragrance of Christ?** - Here's a profound truth - *You smell like - what you've been around!*

1. **Campfire at the beach. cigarettes. hug someone w/a lot of perfume on.**

¹ Intimate Moment's, pg.83

2. I was going to ask *are you hanging around Christ* - as it helps us to permeate His Bouquet. But here is the more profound truth believers the words actually say, *For WE ARE the aroma of Christ to God.* 2 Cor.2:15
You can't tell a flower to stop being fragrant, it cannot do otherwise!
- a) Our responsibility is just to **BE** the aroma.