

Brokenness Is Never a Waste

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Matthew 26:6-13 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat. But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor. When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, **Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me. For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always. For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.**

Mark 14:3 And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.

- I. This alabaster box was a container made of a certain type of stone, and used to contain valuable things such as perfume.
 - A. It was a vessel that contained something very valuable.
 - B. It might have had the appearance of pearl or marble.
 - C. The appearance of the box spoke of its valuable contents.
 - D. She brake the box – crushed completely; shattered to pieces.
 - E. She poured the contents on the Lord's head.
 - F. The valuable contents of the box were poured out to the Lord.
 - G. The contents of the box became a blessing for the Lord himself and all those who were in his presence.
 - H. The box being broken and the contents poured out like this was considered a waste.
 - I. They had a much better plan about what to do with that valuable stuff.

- II. We have all had an alabaster box full of precious ointment broken for us?
 - A. We have all benefited from someone else's broken life.
 - B. We have been blessed by what came out of the crushing to pieces of their life, which almost always happens through some extreme tragedy or trial or wrong they have had to suffer.
 - C. The selfish vessel that keeps it all to itself must be broken to pieces before the fragrance inside will be poured out.
 - D. We have gloried in the fragrance of what is released when a human vessel is broken and that soul is released from its stubbornness and selfishness and is allowed to become a blessing to God and others.

- III. Have you ever been the box?
 - A. Have you ever been the one to be broken to pieces?
 - B. Have you ever been broken by someone else's sins or negligence?
 - C. Have you ever been broken from simply circumstances that were no one's doing but God's?
 - D. Was your being broken a waste, or did it turn into a blessing for others?

1. Did what was inside turn to spoiled rot and bitterness, anger, and frustration?
 2. Or did it turn to love, good will, and benevolence toward others?
- E. Have you ever seen all that held your life together laying in a pile of pieces?
1. That comfortable, enclosed realm in which you live and in which you have all that is important to you.
- F. A box is a prison of sorts, and it must be broken if its valuable contents are ever going to be released.
1. Otherwise, no one ever knows what is inside, and no one is ever blessed by its fragrance.
- IV. Have you ever been the one who broke the box?
- A. Have you ever been the one who broke someone else's life to pieces?
 - B. Have you ever been the one that brought an end to the comfortable circle where someone else was living with all that was valuable to them?
 - C. Have you ever been the one who was responsible for the end of someone else's life as they knew it?
 1. Because of your own sin?
 2. Because of your own thoughtlessness and carelessness?
 3. Or through no fault of your own?
 - D. Have you done something, or some things, that has broken someone's heart and left them different than they ever were before?
- V. It need not ever be considered a waste.
- A. What IS a waste is when the box is never broken.
 1. The valuable contents perish with the box eventually and are then wasted.
 - B. If the contents are turned into a blessing and sustenance for others then it cannot be considered a waste.
 - C. Because the Lord was the object of this breaking and pouring out it was not a waste.
 - D. This was all this woman had that she could do for the Lord, and Jesus commended her for it - so it was not a waste.

Mark 14:8 She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.