

Wasteful Worship

Matthew 26:1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had **finished all these sayings**, he said unto his **disciples**, 2 Ye know that **after two days** is *the feast of the passover*, and the Son of man is **betrayed to be crucified**. 3 **Then** assembled together the **chief priests**, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called **Caiaphas**, 4 And consulted that they might **take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him**. 5 But they said, **Not on the feast day, lest** there be an uproar among the people. 6 **Now** when **Jesus was in Bethany**, in the **house of Simon the leper**, 7 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*. 8 But when his disciples saw *it*, they had indignation, saying, To **what purpose is this waste?** 9 For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor. 10 When Jesus understood *it*, he said unto them, **Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me**. 11 For ye have the **poor always** with you; but me ye have not always. 12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, **she did it for my burial**. 13 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.

1. Jesus knows completely what is about to happen 1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had **finished all these sayings**, he said unto his **disciples**, 2 Ye know that **after two days** is *the feast of the passover*, and the Son of man is **betrayed to be crucified**.
 - a. Jesus finished explaining the future and how the end would be in Matthew 24-25, 24:3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, **when** shall these things be? and what *shall be* the **sign of thy coming**, and of the **end of the world?**
 - i. Jesus will return one day and set up His earthly kingdom 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he **sit upon the throne of his glory**:
 - ii. It will be a 1,000 year reign here on earth
 - iii. He will be the judge of who gets into that kingdom

"I Would Ye Would Not"
Matthew 23:37

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1. They will enter because their faith caused them to love and treat the Jews correctly
 2. Those that do not know Him will live selfish lives and not care about God's people
 3. They will go into everlasting punishment that was never prepared for human beings 25:**41** Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into **everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 46** And these shall go away into **everlasting punishment:** but the righteous into life eternal.
 - i. He will come at an unannounced time
 - ii. He will see how we have dealt with what He has given us in opportunities and abilities
- b. He tells His disciples that He will soon be betrayed and crucified
- i. You must understand that He came to die
 - ii. Nothing surprised Him
 - iii. No one killed Him but He gave His life John 5:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because **I lay down my life**, that I might take it again. **18 No man taketh it from me**, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.
- c. This all happens at the time of the feast of passover
- i. The feast of the passover was to remember what God had done in Egypt
 1. All the firstborn were to die in Egypt
 2. God told His people that they could take a lamb and it could die in the place of their firstborn
 3. That night the death angel came and took the life of every first born except those that had the blood of the lamb on their doorpost
 4. If the blood was there then the death angel would passover
 - ii. This lamb was a picture of Jesus dying on the cross in our place
 - iii. Every story in the Bible points to the death of the substitute

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- iv. When John the Baptist saw Jesus at the Jordan River he cried out John 1:29 The next day John seeth **Jesus** coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**
- v. From the first story of sin it was the death of a substitute that God used to reconcile us to Him, Adam and Eve and the coats of skins
 - a. This is the story of salvation that you are about to watch take place in the crucifixion Isaiah 53:4 Surely he hath **borne our griefs**, And **carried our sorrows**: Yet we did esteem him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. **5** But he *was* **wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities**: The **chastisement of our peace was upon him**; And with his stripes we are healed. **6** All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned every one to his own way; And **the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.**
 - b. Jesus knows that He will die. He plans to die. He came to die. He is doing God's will and reconciling us to Himself
 - c. The entire story is about Jesus dying. Without His death there would be no salvation
 - i. Even if you believed that you could protect your family from the angel of death you would have died?
 - ii. It wasn't about your strength or ability
 - iii. It wasn't about how good or bad you were
 - iv. It was about your believing God and obeying what He told you to do, put the blood of the lamb on your door
 - v. That is exactly what salvation is about
- 1. The religious crowd plot to kill Jesus 3 **Then** assembled together the **chief priests**, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called **Caiaphas**, 4 And consulted that they might **take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him.** 5 But they said, **Not on the feast day, lest** there be an **uproar among the people.**
 - a. The most important people in Israel get together to plot His death
 - b. They want to kill Jesus but know that they must do so deceitfully

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- c. There is no reason for Jesus to die except their wicked hearts have rejected Him and all His Father sent Him to teach and preach
 - d. They decide to kill Him but in a way that will not cause the people to get upset
 - e. There are over 2,000,000 Jews in town, the majority know of Jesus. They like Him, how can their hearts be turned to bring about His death
 - f. The religious crowd thought that they would end Jesus and His ministry
 - g. What really happened was they carried out God's will and Jesus died for men to be saved
 - i. There would have been no need for Jesus to die if we could have saved ourselves
 - ii. We do nothing to save ourselves before salvation
 - iii. We do nothing after salvation to keep saved
2. Preparing Jesus body for burial before He even dies 6 **Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, 7 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*. 8 But when his disciples saw *it*, they had indignation, saying, To **what purpose is this waste?** 9 For this ointment might have been **sold for much,** and given to the poor. 10 When Jesus understood *it*, he said unto them, **Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.** 11 For ye have the **poor always** with you; but me ye have not always. 12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, **she did it for my burial.**
- a. Jesus announces in the beginning of this passage that He will be betrayed and crucified
 - b. The lady pours the ointment on His head while He is eating
 - c. The anointing was very expensive
 - i. It was an alabaster box of very precious ointment 7 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*.
 - ii. She had to break the box to get the oil out
 - iii. This was a total gift of it all, from the box to its contents

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- iv. This box of ointment could have been sold for quite a bit of money 9 For this ointment might have been **sold for much**, and given to the poor.
 - d. Jesus accepts her offering realizing that she knew what was happening
 - e. She was loving and worshipping Him
 - i. Her love was extravagant. It was apparently worth about a year's minimum wage
 - 1. Love doesn't calculate
 - 2. Real love isn't looking for the reasonable way to give
 - 3. Real love has no upper limit
 - 4. Real love wants to give even more
 - 5. She was expressing her love for Jesus and His ministry
 - ii. Love makes you lose your common sense
 - 1. The disciples, mainly Judas, thought that she should have considered the value of her gift before giving
 - 2. There might be better ways to spend the money than wasting it on Jesus
 - 3. A gift isn't really a gift if there is no sacrifice behind the gift
 - 4. It is a gift because we are doing more than we can afford
 - iii. She loved by seizing the opportunity
 - 1. The poor might be here always but Jesus was there now and just said He is going to die
 - 2. Love wants to grab every opportunity to express itself
 - iv. Jesus said people would hear of her expression of love everywhere and forever 13 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**.
 - 1. There is plenty of sadness right now in the story
 - 2. There is betrayal and tragedy
 - 3. But one beautiful story will be remembered
3. The real question is how wasteful is worship

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- a. Even after hearing Jesus say that He would be dying shortly the disciples are arguing about taking care of poor people
 - i. Their focus is on their current ministry and what they are doing
 - ii. They are not paying attention to Jesus and what is happening in His life
- b. This lady hears what Jesus says and comes worshipping and honoring Him for who He is 7 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*.
- c. Most people will see waste where you should see worship 8 But when his disciples saw *it*, they had indignation, saying, To **what purpose is this waste?** 9 For this ointment might have been **sold for much**, and given to the poor.
 - i. Worshipping God is a waste of your time
 - 1. The idea that you should pray and read your Bible everyday
 - 2. One service a week seems like a bunch much less 3 services and Sunday School
 - 3. Then some time spend serving
 - ii. Worshipping God seems like such waste of money
 - 1. We give sacrificially starting at a tithe
 - 2. Then we give extra to all the ministries
 - 3. Then we support missionaries all around the world
 - iii. Worshipping seems like such a waste of talent
 - 1. We could be making more money
 - 2. Having more fun
 - 3. Doing things that people who do not love God believe is worth a life
 - iv. Imagine how crazy it seems when we give our children to take the gospel around the world
 - v. Our worship makes us make decisions based on pleasing God more than what w ourselves want
- d. Everyone can think of better ways to spend their life than God, church, the Bible, etc
- e. Even family is more important

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- f. We look at Matthew 6:33 But **seek ye first** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
 - i. We want what we count as valuable
 - ii. We can even use Jesus as a means to get what we want
 - iii. Giving Jesus true worship and first place to Jesus seems to mean that we are risking what we want
 - g. Wasting your life really looks more like
 - i. Not spending time in the Word of God
 - ii. Letting your doubtful thoughts take over your mind
 - iii. Not realizing that God has big plans for you
 - iv. Not spending time with people that will motivate you to serve God and help strengthen your walk with God
 - v. Not using your resources for things that really matter
 - vi. Being afraid to step out of your comfort zone
 - vii. Not being happy where you are and with what you are doing
4. Two fold promise 13 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.**
- a. The Lord Jesus promised that her sacrifice would not be forgotten
 - b. Today we study the story due to a promise made
 - c. Notice also that the gospel will be preached all over the whole world
 - d. We can know that God's Word and what Jesus did on the cross is going to go all over the world
 - e. It His death that brings salvation, all grace, not what you do

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