

### **Extravagant Love (Mark 14:1-9)**

- Mark reports: religious establishment wanted to kill Jesus early on in His ministry
- After Jesus' healing the man with the withered hand, they united in hatred for Him
- After the parable of the wicked vineyard keepers, they wanted him arrested 12:12
- Afraid of the crowd & after a verbal exchange, they wanted him dealt with (1,2)
- Meanwhile, after Jesus had delivered his Olivet discourse, he retired to Bethany
- There he was dining with 'Simon the leper' (v.3). We have no information on him
- John's account of the diners reports Mary, Martha & Lazarus were there (12:2)
- Reclining at the table they witnessed a remarkable and unforgettable event (14:3)
- John: she anointed Jesus' feet with the perfume & wiped his feet with her hair (3)
- Mark says Judas was the first one to start the objections to her devotion (4,5)

#### **I. Jesus Defends Mary's Act of Worship (14:6)**

- Jesus defends Mary's act of worship: "Leave her alone, why do you trouble her"
- Jesus called what she did beautiful, because He was aware of her loving motive
- It was beautiful, because it was spontaneous to the prompting of the Holy Spirit
- It was beautiful because it was not dominated by practicality: done for Jesus alone

#### **II. The Motive of Mary's Act of Worship (14:7)**

- Jesus defended Mary's action because it placed Him before anyone else
- Sublime irony: Mary's gift was a gift towards the poor, she saw Jesus as a poor
- She saw Jesus in those ominous days before his crucifixion as a poor man
- Thus her act was ultimately an act of kindness towards the poor

#### **III. The Completeness of Mary's Act of Worship (14:8a)**

- Jesus saw Mary's act of worship as beautiful because it put him first & it was total
- Jesus said: 8a 'She did what she could.' She did! Mary was not a woman of means
- Those few minutes for Mary cost her \$25-30,000 she did it with lavish abandon
- Complete sacrifice is the only adequate expression for a life redeemed by God
- The fragrance which is so honoring to Christ is whole hearted devotion to Christ

#### **IV. Mary's Insightful Act of Worship (14:8b)**

- Jesus lauded the insightfulness of Mary's worship: ...anointed my body for burial
- Though Jesus repeatedly spoke of his death, His disciples passed it off
- But Mary yielded to his teaching and accepted what was coming