

Matthew 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, & she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. ⁸ And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste?" ⁹ For this could have been sold for a large sum & 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, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

Intro: Last week, Jesus showed His disciples the gateway to Heaven – how He would save His people from their sins through His death on that cross & resurrection from the dead! This is the center of Christianity!

Main Point: Be spiritual saints who always turn to the cross & fight to think in the mindset of Christ.

This week, we see a woman who has the mindset of Christ: she demonstrates extravagant (profuse; lavish; exceeding limits) sacrifice for Christ & extravagant love & devotion to Christ, & helps prepare Christ for His death. She does a good, beautiful thing for Jesus, & she will be remembered forever for it! Be like her! [b/c of Jesus!]

-**Spurgeon:** Happy is the man who feels that all he has, all he wants, & all he expects are to be found in His God

-**Burk Parsons:** The greatest joy in this life is to know that our greatest joy is not in this life but in the one to come

You can't waste anything on Jesus, so love Him extravagantly because He loved You extravagantly first.

1. Jesus Spent Time With The Sheep

Matthew 26:6: Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper

Jesus was in the house of a man called Simon the leper. Simon used to be a leper. He's probably a man Jesus healed, & now Jesus is with him eating in his home.

a. Shepherds should smell like sheep: Jesus spent time with people. We should spend time with each other.

b. Jesus is a healer: Jesus came to banish sickness from this earth. Some now, all in the age to come!

c. Jesus made the unclean clean: All of Jesus' healing points to something deeper – salvation from sin. **GOSPEL**

2. A Demonstration Of Extravagant Love

Matthew 26:6-7: 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, & she poured it on his head as he reclined at table.

Mark Dever: Six aspects of a true disciple of Jesus we see demonstrated by this woman:

1) You know she's a true disciple by her devotion: This is extravagant devotion! Great sacrifice=family heirloom?

- **Devotion is shown by action:** This is costly love displayed! This is expensive ointment. We are told in Mark's Gospel that it was made from nard, a plant from India, it's an expensive perfume. Mark tells us it was worth more than 300 denarii (1 denarii was 1 day's wage, so 300 denarii is one year's wage – like \$30K to \$40K!)

This is worship! She is worshipping Jesus! And God alone is to be worshiped. Conclusion: **Jesus is God!**

Commentator: The world has never had a problem with religion in moderation. It has no problem with too much wealth or power or sex or influence, but it has a problem with too much religion. (College student gets saved: cult)

She sacrifices what is most valuable to her for Jesus—all for Jesus—only for Jesus! You can't waste anything on Jesus!

You can't waste money on Jesus! If you invest in Jesus & His Kingdom, you will always get one million percent return! There's no stock market crash with Jesus! You can't waste anything on Jesus! You can't ever give Jesus too much! You'll never waste anything on Jesus! And you always get an infinitely great return!

Luke 6:38: give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.

Her expensive ointment is Abraham's Isaac.

Her expensive ointment is Jacob's Rachel (worked seven years, but they seemed as a few days b/c of his love for her)

Her expensive ointment is Israel's temple in Jerusalem (Ezek. 24:21: the pride of your power, the delight of your eyes, & the yearning of your soul)

Her expensive ointment is Asaph's "everything on earth" (Psalm 73:25).

Her expensive ointment is the Rich Young Ruler's wealth.

Her expensive ointment is the poor widow's two, small, copper coins.

Her expensive ointment is Paul's confidence in the flesh: (Phil. 3:4-6: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless)

- Her expensive ointment is Jesus' fellowship with the Father (He gave it up when He died on that cross!)

- Her expensive ointment is God the Father's Son, Jesus Christ (He gave up His Son when He died on that cross!)

What is your expensive ointment? What is precious to you? What can't you live without? Jesus is better!

As followers of Jesus Christ, what we treasure most should be our triune God! And therefore we will give up anything & everything for Him! Whatever He asks, we will do! And Jesus didn't even ask her to do this!

Friend, do you know Jesus this way? **John 14:15:** If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Beloved Christian, are there valuables in your life that you are idolizing that you need to re-prioritize so that Jesus is Who & What is most valuable to you?

Idolize Bible knowledge; Idolize marriage; Idolize children/family; Idolize career; Idolize sports; Idolize dreams
- **Elisabeth Elliot:** Hopes and dreams are material for sacrifice.

Are there sins you treasure that you need to give up for Jesus—the sin bearer? Sins you need to kill & give to Him for forgiveness & give to Him so that you may never do them again? May God give us all extravagant devotion to Jesus! **Because you can't waste anything on Jesus!** And there's always more joy in Jesus than in all we give up!

You can't waste anything on Jesus, so love Him extravagantly because He loved You extravagantly first.

3. A Misguided Objection

Matthew 26:8-9: And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? ⁹ For this could have been sold for a large sum & given to the poor." [Warning: Sincere Christians can get priorities wrong!]

Yes, we should care for the poor! And if you are devoted to Jesus, you will care for the poor! One way to show your devotion to Jesus is to care for the poor! **Jesus cared for the poor: Matt 19:21:** "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess & give to the poor, & you will have treasure in heaven; & come, follow me." [Deut. 15:11]

But those who care for the poor the most are those who care for Jesus the most! And they bring Jesus into all their caring for the poor! There is a first & greatest commandment! She's demonstrating this! It's sad that the disciples don't get this! But Jesus bears patiently & lovingly with them even in this! Oh the mercy & love of Jesus!

Mark Dever: 2) You know she's a true disciple because she suffers: Her costly love is rebuked—she's criticized with disgust & great anger—by Jesus' own disciples! They think she should do other good works with this money!
- **But you can't waste anything on Jesus!**

If you follow Jesus faithfully, you will suffer: **2 Timothy 3:12:** Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

In our culture: Are you prepared to suffer for following Jesus on matters of sexual ethics & abortion?

a) **LGBTQIA: 2019 NBC News:** At an LGBTQ presidential forum, Beto O'Rourke supported stripping the tax-exempt status of churches that oppose gay marriage. He has since backtracked. (People more radical than him?)

b) **Transgenderism:** Canadian Father Jailed for Speaking Out Against Biological Daughter's Gender Transition;
- **President Joe Biden:** To parents of transgender children, affirming your child's identity is one of the most powerful things you can do to keep them safe and healthy; **News Article:** Chicago Mother Loses Custody of Her Daughter—For Insisting That Her Daughter Is A Girl

c) **Abortion:** Do you realize how controversial it was to stand up for the Jews in Nazi Germany (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)? Do you realize how controversial it was to stand up against slavery in the U.S. in the 1800s:

- **Charles Spurgeon:** I do from my inmost soul detest slavery . . . and although I commune at the Lord's table with men of all creeds, yet with a slave-holder I have no fellowship of any sort or kind. Whenever one has called upon me, I have considered it my duty to express my detestation of his wickedness, & I would as soon think of receiving a murderer into my church . . . as a man stealer.

- **Article:** The Reason Why America Burned Spurgeon's Sermons and Sought to Kill Him:

Virginia: Spurgeon is a "fat, overgrown boy."; Louisiana: Spurgeon is a "hell-deserving Englishman."

- Abortion is the corresponding issue today that will bring the wrath of the culture down upon you!

Richard Wurmbbrand: One of our workers was a young girl of the Underground Church. The communist police had discovered that she secretly spread Gospels & taught children about Christ. They decided to arrest her. But to make the arrest more agonizing & as painful as they could, they decided to delay her arrest a few weeks, until the very day she was to be married. On her wedding day the girl was dressed as a bride. The most wonderful, joyous day in a girl's life! Suddenly, the door was pushed open & the secret police rushed in. When the bride saw the secret police, she held out her arms towards them to be handcuffed. They roughly put the manacles on her wrists. She looked toward her beloved, then kissed the chains & said: "I thank my heavenly Bridegroom for this the jewel He has presented to me on my marriage day. I thank Him that I am worthy to suffer for Him." She was dragged off with weeping Christians & a weeping bridegroom left behind. They knew what happens to young Christian girls in the hands of communist guards. After five years she was released—a destroyed, broken woman, looking thirty years older. She said it was the least she could do for her Christ. And her bridegroom had waited for her.

Don't doubt God's love when suffering happens! Al Martin: Get beyond reading God's heart by how many cookies and candy bars you find in your top drawer—read the heart of God in His Word!

Beloved, are you willing to suffer for Jesus?

You can't waste anything on Jesus, so love Him extravagantly because He loved You extravagantly first.

4. Jesus Delights In Extravagant Love

Matthew 26:10-13: 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, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

Mark Dever: 3) You know she's a true disciple because she acknowledges Who Jesus is: **V. 11:** For you always have the poor with you, **but you will not always have me.** [Love Me! Adore Me! Sacrifice for Me! Worship Me!]

Have you ever thought of how arrogant this is of Jesus to say these words? 16,000 little children die of starvation every day in our day. How Jesus?! How can you say this?! (Finally! You give me my \$60 million jet!) But Jesus is not a mere man! Jesus is God! **And you can't waste anything on Jesus!**

This woman demonstrates for us that there is a commandment greater than love your neighbor as yourself—namely, Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, & with all your strength.

- **Luke 14:26:** If anyone comes to me & does not hate his own father & mother & wife & children & brothers & sisters, yes, & even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.

4) You know she's a true disciple because she acknowledges what Jesus did: V. 12: In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial.

Al Mohler: She ministered to Jesus as if he were a dead man!; **Boice:** She sat at Jesus' feet & learned from Him!
- How much more should we minister to Him now that He's alive forevermore, never to die again!

Galatians 6:14: But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ
- Jesus showed His extravagant devotion at the cross when He was broken & poured out to redeem lost sinners!

5) You know she's a true disciple because she points others to Christ: V. 13: Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.

- How do you want to be remembered? Parents, how do you want your children to remember you?

Matthew Henry: He recommended this piece of heroic piety to the applause of the church in all ages.

- True disciples desire to point others to Jesus Christ! True disciples long to share the Gospel with others, to see people come to faith in Christ, & to see new converts learn to obey all that Jesus has commanded. [Pray for this!]

What she has done will never be forgotten! Never forget this! Never leave your first love! I only want to have one hobby horse (a preoccupation; a favorite topic): Jesus Christ! **Because you can't waste anything on Jesus!**

6) You know she's a true disciple because God delights in her: V. 10: But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me." [A beautiful thing for the most beautiful One]

We see costly love delighted in. We must learn to live for an audience of one: God—not the approval of others.

God delights in you!: Isaiah 62:5: as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

- **Zephaniah 3:17:** The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

5. Applications: How Do We Serve Jesus Like This Today?

We are devoted to Jesus (trust & obey); We suffer for Jesus; We acknowledge Who Jesus is & What He did; We point others to Jesus. We serve the body of Jesus Christ – the church! Discipleship! Serving! Loving!

And Evangelism: **Colossians 1:24:** Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, & in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church

- **John Piper:** What's missing in Christ's afflictions is the presentation of those afflictions to the people for whom he died—the personal, touchable, visible, seeable presentation of his afflictions to those for whom he died.

- **Quotation:** What we do in this life echoes in eternity. (Matching leisure/comfort spending with missions giving!)

You can't waste anything on Jesus, so love Him extravagantly because He loved You extravagantly first.

Jesus Is Worthy Of Extravagant Devotion; With Greatest Delight In Every Emotion; For He Swallowed God's Curse And Fury Ocean; Then Rose From The Dead To The Extreme Promotion!

We waste a lot

We waste time

We waste money
We waste God-given gifts
We waste opportunities
We even get wasted
We waste certain years of our lives
You may even waste your whole life
But you can't waste anything on Jesus!

We waste a lot
The Scribes and Pharisees viciously wasted the very Messiah their Scriptures spoke about
Jesus' disciples wasted an opportunity to rejoice in the value of their Master
Judas Iscariot wasted the very Savior Who chose him to be a disciple for 30 pieces of silver
But they don't know that you can't waste anything on Jesus!

We waste a lot
We waste time worrying when God says be anxious for nothing
We waste time fearing when God says fear not
We waste time sinning when God says redeem the time for the days are evil
We waste time doubting when Jesus says only believe
We waste time desiring all manner of things in this world when Jesus is the Desire of all nations
Because you can't waste anything on Jesus!

We waste a lot
We waste money and aren't even as concerned about the poor as Jesus is
We waste money on lottery tickets
We waste money on illegal drugs and alcohol to get drunk
We waste money on pornography and prostitutes
We waste money on ourselves
But you can't waste anything on Jesus!

We waste a lot
We waste our purity on promiscuity
We waste our energy on anger
We waste our desires on coveting and comparing ourselves with others
We waste our relationships on love for me, myself, and I
We waste our holiness on rebellion
But you can't waste anything on Jesus!

We waste a lot
But this woman who anointed Jesus didn't waste one drop
She gave the best to Jesus; Shall you give your best to Jesus?
She gave the most expensive to Jesus; Shall you give the most expensive to Jesus?
She gave it all to Jesus; Shall you give your all to Jesus?
She gave it only to Jesus; Shall you give your all to Jesus only?
Because Jesus is worthy of the best
Jesus is worthy of the most expensive
Jesus is worthy of our all in all for He is the all in all
And you can't waste anything on Jesus!

We waste a lot
But Jesus never wasted anything

He redeemed every part of every second of every time most effectively for the glory of His Father to save us from all of our wasted time
He maximized the use of money even though His money manager was a master deceiver and denier
He glorified God perfectly with His greatest gifts by giving them all up on that cross
He made the absolute maximum most of every opportunity to love the LORD His God with all of His heart, mind, soul, and strength, and to love His neighbor as Himself so that we might be saved
He was totally left as waste and wounded for our transgressions and absorbed the wrath of God on that cross in our place so that we might be forgiven
He rose up from the dead to save us from all our waste and to turn all our wastefulness into wonderful redemption
So that now, because of the great love with which He loved us: where our waste abounds His grace abounds all the more
For this reason and many more, you can't waste anything on Jesus!

We may have wasted a lot in our lives
But Jesus' life was poured out like precious ointment on that cross so that we might live to never waste again
Now we live for Him, and you can't waste anything on Jesus
Basic Christianity is extravagant devotion to our King
You'll waste no time on Jesus!
You'll waste no money on Jesus!
You'll waste no love on Jesus!
You'll waste no desire on Jesus!
You'll waste no devotion on Jesus!
You'll waste no commitment on Jesus!
You'll waste no obedience on Jesus!
You'll waste no sacrifice on Jesus!
You'll waste no delight on Jesus!
You'll waste no worship on Jesus!
Spend it all! Spend it all! Spend it all! Oh Christian spend it all on Jesus Christ!
He alone can forgive!
He alone can heal!
He alone can save!
He alone can satisfy!
He alone can fulfill every hope and dream and longing you've ever had times 10 Trillion times 10 Trillion!
Come and taste and see that He is good!
Because you can't waste anything on Jesus!

Christ Jesus Is Worthy Of All Our Devotion
His Glory And Beauty Are Vast Like The Ocean
We Love Him With Words, Thoughts, Acts, And Emotion
He Died And Then Rose Showing Greatest Devotion
By Faith Alone Our Sins Cast In The Ocean
Because Of His Work Our Hearts Put Into Motion
All For His Fame And Glory Promotion
When You Give Him Your All, There's Never A Waste
You Can't Give Him Too Much, He Can't Be Out Paced

She Prepared Him For Burial, For Death He Would Taste
Extravagant Devotion, Her Faith In Him Placed
For All Her Sins By His Work Are Erased
On That Cross He's Debased, Defaced, And Disgraced
So That Now For Our Sin We Have A Distaste
And Hunger For Righteousness With It's Been Replaced
Oh! With What Mercy And Love We've Been Graced
For Jesus Our Lover And All We've Embraced!

Because you can't waste anything on Jesus!