

**She Has Done A
Good Deed**

“Now when Jesus was in Bethany, at the home of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume, and she poured it upon His head as He reclined at the table”

Matthew 26:6-7

All They Saw Was “Waste”

- Matthew 26:8-9
- Somebody without a spiritual mindset would have only seen the “waste” of using an entire bottle of expensive perfume on one man – who, perhaps, might have become somewhat mundane to them.
- Do we see a little of ourselves in the disciples’ indignant response?

*“Here is a question for you: Is it possible to be too excited about Jesus? (Are you personally in any danger of that?) Possible to go off the deep end and think about Him overmuch? To rejoice beyond propriety? To talk about Him as freely as a football game? To have an almost giddy confidence in what He will do next? To fast and pray for deeper life with Him? To be overly preoccupied with evangelism?” (“Won’t Let You Go Unless You Bless Me”, Seu, *World Magazine*, p. 105).*

“Excessive” Christianity

- Prayer: "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- Joy: "Rejoice always" (1 Thessalonians 5:16).
- Gratitude: "In everything give thanks" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- Spiritual discernment: "Examine everything carefully" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).
- Morality: "Abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22).
- The Fruit of the Spirit: "Against such things there is no law" (Galatians 5:23).
- Evangelism: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15).

“But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, ‘Why do you bother the woman? For she has done a good deed to Me’”

Matthew 26:10

Genuine Concern for the Poor?

- Matthew 26:11, John 12:1-8
- We will always have the poor with us (Deut. 15:11). The disciples' first responsibility was to spiritual matters, especially while they had opportunity to commune with Jesus personally (John 12:35).
- It is not out of character for Judas, at the very least, to have only a feigned concern for the poor.

“In Mary’s deed they could discern only a lavish expenditure typical in conscienceless prodigality, quite uncharacteristic of godly people responsible for every penny God entrusts to them. But is whatever anyone spends for Jesus really squandered or lost? Great faith, judged by the external manifestations it motivates, may seem a waste, something extra or calculable only in terms of loss. But in terms of true stewardship, the objecting Judas, and others like him, is exposed for the diabolical hypocrisy it was: he considered 300 denarii too much to spend for Jesus’ luxury, but was willing to accept just under half that amount for Jesus’ life (30 pieces of silver only equal 120 denarii!)” (Matthew Vol. IV, Bible Study Textbook, Fowler, p. 632).

Prepare Me For Burial

- Matthew 26:12-13
- Jesus' death was coming soon. He did not try to hide it or avoid it like a coward. Nobody can be certain just what the woman knew about the coming passion of Jesus, but it is possible that her act shows a greater acceptance of His death than the disciples.
- She prepared His body for burial and is remembered now for this simple act of faith.