



LESSON 142 - MARK 14:3-10

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. And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her. And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her. And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.

1. Was this the first time this kind tribute and honor had been done to Jesus? See Mt 26:6-13, Jn 12:1-8, Lk 7:36-50. Notice the times mentioned.
2. What was the woman saying by her tribute?
3. What were the disciples saying by their objections?
4. "They murmured against her." What does this tell you?
5. In this passage in Mark, Jesus gives a principle about giving. What is it?
6. What spiritual characteristics did this woman show by her worship?
7. What reward did she get?
8. What was Judas' reaction to this?

Answers

1. No. This kind of an act of adoration, using a very costly perfume, had been done in the first year of Jesus' ministry by a woman who had been known to have been immoral (Lk 7:37,39). Several years later, six days before the last passover for Jesus and His disciples, the gospel of John records Mary of Bethany anointing Jesus in a similar manner after supper. No doubt, she offered her most valuable treasure to honor Him, and in thanks for Jesus' raising of her brother Lazarus from the dead. (Jn 11). Then in Bethany, four days after that, another woman, unknown by the disciples, since she is not named by Mark or Matthew, having an alabaster container, broke the seal, and poured the ointment of spikenard, which was very expensive and fragrant, over Jesus' head. The first time it happened, no one objected. The second time it occurred, Judas objected. (Jn 12:4-6) The third time it happened, several of the disciples were upset. They agreed with Judas' viewpoint that it was a waste of money to do this, and said so. (Mk 14:4, Mt 26:8)

2. Jesus, You are worthy of the highest praise and the best offering I can give You. What is most prized by me, I give to You, for You are deserving of all the honor I can express. By this, I say, 'I love You, and worship You with all my heart.'

3. They had taken on Judas' thoughts, and a religious spirit, which seeks to get them to substitute something religious, even good, like helping the poor, for the true worship of Jesus Christ. It wasn't the disciples' ointment; they had no authority or right to object to what this woman wanted to do. They tried to steal the joy that Jesus and the woman received from this marvelous act of worship. (Mt 26:10) Jesus saw her anointing as something more than the woman even intended. "She did it (to prepare Me) for My burial." (Mt 26:12) This should remind us that the Holy Spirit may have us do something in obedience to His direction, which has a higher and greater purpose than what we realize.

4. When you are obeying the Spirit of God, there may be some who object, question, and even complain against you. Remember what Jesus taught: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 5:10)

5. **" For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good..."** Here is a principle-- that we can help the poor whenever we desire. However, even this needs to be directed by the Holy Spirit. If you feel a desire to give to the poor, or the Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse, or other organizations which help the poor, ask the Lord to tell you an amount to give. This strengthens your dependence on His Word and your ability to hear His voice.

6. She showed faith, gratitude, and gave Him great glory in the sight of others.

7. Her reward was the commendation of Jesus, and the future commendation of any and all who would hear the gospel, which would include the account of her act of worship to her Lord and Savior.

8. Early in Jesus' ministry, Judas had seen the first woman anoint Jesus feet with the costly perfume and he raised no objection. The second time it happened, he did object. The third time it happened, just four days later, he was enraged. Having been made the treasurer of the funds/donations (Lk 8:2-3) Jesus' ministry received, and having been stealing from those funds, Judas figured he could have sold the ointment and replaced the missing money before he was caught. (Jn 12:4-6) This "wasting" of this costly spikenard upon Jesus so angered him that, having heard about the chief priests wanting to arrest and kill Jesus, Judas sought money from them to betray Jesus. No doubt, he thought Jesus would escape the danger, as He had done so many times before this. Judas probably thought this was a grand plan and he would not get caught for his thievery. (Mt 26:3-5, 14-16, Mk 14:10-11)

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