



How Deep Is
Your Love?
Mark 14:3-9

Observations

As Jesus' life on earth was coming to an end in the Gospels, most often this story is overlooked

But obviously, this incident made a tremendous impression on Jesus, because He says wherever the story is told about His life, including His death, burial, and resurrection; what she did should be included in memory of her

It's a simple incident really, but all four gospel writers record this story which to me, identifies its importance

While Jesus was in the town of Bethany, He was entertained in the house of a man named Simon, who had been miraculously cured of Leprosy. Luke 7:36 says he was a Pharisee

There came unto Jesus a woman. John's gospel says that it was Mary, the sister of Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the grave. Luke 7:37 says that she was known in the city as an immoral woman, having lived a sinful life. She had a bad reputation.

She stands behind Jesus crying (Luke 7:38) and her tears were literally dropping on Jesus' feet

She begins to dry his wet feet with her hair, removing the tears; and in place of them she breaks open the seal of an Alabaster box, which contained an expensive perfumed ointment

Mark's gospel says that she poured the expensive ointment on Jesus' head. John's gospel says that she also massaged some of the expensive perfumed ointment into Christ's feet, having dried his feet with her hair



Observations

Some of the people there, including the disciples, questioned her financial judgement and were indignant

They said that the ointment was worth a year's salary, and she "blew it all" rather than at least sell it for profit and help others (approx. \$15,000 in today's money)

Did you know that people still question the amount of time, effort, or resources you give to Jesus:

"Why do you go to church so much?"

"Why are you involved in so much at the church?"

"Why is your church contribution so excessive?"

"Why pay for that ourselves?" "Just bill the church for it!"

Well Mary Had Her Reasons!

Jesus, in John chapter 11, had raised Mary's brother Lazarus from the grave after four days in it

So God had just granted one of Mary's greatest prayers

What about you? Has God ever answered one of your greatest prayers? (it's an individual question)

What about the job you wanted or were allowed to keep? What about *"being on and off furlough?"*

You Have Your Reasons to Be Excessive With God!

**What about the illness you or your child had and got over, or living after a Cancer diagnosis—
Cancer free?**

What about the husband or wife that finally became a Christian?

What about trying to have a child, or seeing your child graduate, remembering the obstacles that you faced trying to get them to that point?

***After Being Granted a
Blessing of Tremendous
Magnitude, There Should
Be a Greater Commitment,
a Greater Service,
a Greater Sacrifice!***

***Mary could have used the money from the
ointment for something else, but she felt that it
was better served with the Master!***

Her Sacrifice Reminded Jesus of His Sacrifice

John says that the amount of the expensive ointment that Mary used on Jesus was a pound (15K)

The disciples' indignant comments suggested that she was wasteful and that less ointment would have sufficed

The common denominator for Jesus and Mary, was that God did not use the least of Heaven's resources for OUR atonement. He sacrificed Heaven's Best! No angels could have substituted. 2 Corinthians 5:21 *"For He hath been made to be sin for us, who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"*

So in breaking the box of the expensive ointment, Mary reminded Jesus of how He would soon give up His precious, expensive, and costly body for us

“Leave Her Alone”

In John 12:8 Jesus comes to Mary’s defense telling His disciples to *“leave her alone.”*

He goes on to tell the disciples that they would be able to help the poor with their resources when He is no longer with them. *“She hath done what she could.”*

He reminds them that He would not be with them always, and the “selflessness” she performed for Him was crucial for them to UNDERSTAND AND REPLICATE!

***Understanding the
Depth of God's Love
May Drive YOU To Do
the Unthinkable!***

Romans 5:6-8



When You See Someone Practicing Self-Forgetful Love, Leave Them Alone!

There are Christians who bless others from their own initiatives, based on their *“frame of reference”* with God

Mary didn't consult with Lazarus or Martha, her siblings, to approve of what she did

Christian couples may share in blessing others *“in Christian ministry”*

Christian singles and couples *“adopt a senior citizen”*

Sometimes what you do generously for God (time, money, effort), doesn't warrant the approval of others. It's based on your feelings about what God has already done for you. Others may not know or appreciate your reasons for service, and that's okay

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent Of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

Acts 8:38