

Gospel of Matthew “What’s It Worth?”
Matthew 26:1-16
May 12, 2024

Matthew 26:1-16

When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, 2 “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, 4 and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. 5 But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

6 Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper,[a] 7 a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and 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 and 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.”

14 Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

The story of Bethany is a story of contrasts.

Determining value will be different based upon who is doing the assessing.

Utilitarian. “How is this useful?”

The woman approaches Jesus by what she might give to him.

The difference between a Christian and a religious person is that a religious person finds God useful and a Christian finds God beautiful.

Your most reckless, faithful and lavish act of service will never compare to what Jesus did for you on the cross.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you through His Word during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) Describe something beautiful that you’ve seen?
- 3.) How would you define beauty in your words? How do the things you find beautiful impact how you live?

- 4.) How can you relate to the disciples and their concern? What were they missing? Side with those who think the woman's gift exceeded what she should have given. How can we be similar to those critics today?
- 5.) Discuss the idea that religious people find God useful and Christians find God beautiful.
- 6.) Why do you think Jesus places such importance on the woman's actions (v.13)?
- 7.) How do you know when asking for more begins to miss what you already have in Christ?
- 8.) How has Jesus changed your idea of what is valuable and how has this made a difference in a recent decision you made?
- 9.) Practically, what does whole-hearted worship look like in your life?
- 10.) How can your Life Group be an encouragement to you as you apply this passage to your life this week?