

“The Alabaster Jar”

THE GOSPEL OF MARK 14:3-10

When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor."

1. The Actor – Who Was This Woman?

We read the same story by the four Gospel writers.

It happened more than once, Mary Magdalene, and Mary.

Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:1-9, Luke 7:36-50, John 12:1-8

2. The Action – What Was So Impressive?

First shock – she was a sinful woman

Second shock – she touched Jesus head and feet

Third shock – she’s entirely too emotional

Fourth shock – she poured out 1 lb of perfume worth \$32,000!

3. The Reaction – Why So Upsetting?

- Jesus should have known she was an immoral woman.
- Matthew & Mark said she anointed his head and feet.
- She came up behind him weeping broke the expensive jar.
- Judas’ reaction was the worst! **WHAT A WASTE!!!**

4. Our Actions – What Have You Done?

- **How much do you love Jesus?**
- **How have you shown repentance over past sins?**
- **Have you shed any tears of remorse for present sins?**
- **Do you ever sit at Jesus’ feet? Do you spend time with Jesus?**
- **Do you waste your time, talents, tithes, treasures?**

Romans 12:1-2 Therefore, brothers, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your reasonable worship.”

Woman with the Alabaster Jar

Mark 14:3-10

Turn with me to mark chapter 14:2-10

It is a picture of a woman with an alabaster box, a woman with a, uh, also called an alabaster jar of expensive perfume. She spilled it on the Lord. She gave it to the Lord. We're reading from Mark. It's also included in all the other gospels. You can read those passages up in our notes,

Mark 14, beginning with verse three,

“While he was in Bethany reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon de Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar, a very expensive perfume made pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. Some of those present were saying indigently to one another. Why is this why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor.

And they rebuked her harshly. Leave her alone. Jesus said, why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them anytime you want, but you will not always have me. She did. She could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. I tell you the truth. Wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.

We want to look this morning at several factors regarding the story of this lady. It's an important story. As I said, Jesus said “Everywhere, the gospels preach, this story is going to be told in remembrance of her as a memorial of her.”

1 THE ACTOR

So we want look, first of all, at the, **the key character, the actor** in this, the woman who is the main character, the actor center stage on this story, we are told simply in the gospel of Mark, that she was a woman. She was a woman that came with an alabaster jar. What do we know about this woman?

As already said, this is told in all four of the gospels, each one of the gospel writers thought it was so significant that they would add something to it and give a little more information. (Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-10, Luke 7:36-50, John 12:1-8)

So, we have it in **Mark 14:3-10**, we have it in **Matthew 26:6-13**, we have it in **Luke 7:36-50**, and we have it in **John 12:1-8** and each one of those add something more to make it clear to us.

Mark says there was a woman with an alabaster jar that was full of wonderful, expensive perfume. Luke takes it a little further. He gives us a little better glimpse of that. He says this woman who came was a sinner. The Greek word that he used was immoral person, a person with an immoral lifestyle. She was sexually living in sin but she had been saved and cleansed and washed in the blood of the lamb. But she was an immoral woman known to them. They knew her in the community as an immoral woman. And she came to Jesus. In the gospel of John really gives us a clear insight to who she is for in **John 11:2**, he spells out her name. He gives us a name to go with this unnamed person. He says in John 11:1 that this banquet, this dinner was in Bethany, where Lazarus lived, and Martha served. **It says it was Mary, who anointed Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair.** And that he goes on to say, and Lazarus was her brother and Martha was her sister. So we know this woman and her identity is that she was Mary. The same Mary of Bethany that met with Jesus after the resurrection of Lazarus, the same that sat at Jesus' feet and worshiped him. This same. Mary is the one that came and broke the alabaster jar over Jesus.

I think that's significant. **John chapter 12**, John gives us more information about that story. He says that she not only came up to him, but she came behind him first, probably in a surprise move, took the alabaster jar and broke it. She didn't just open it. She broke it and then poured it on his head. What a shock. I would be shocked this morning. If somebody behind me poured Jade East all over me or English Leather, or some other cologne or perfume, I'd hate that. I can see why the disciples got upset, man, what a smell! But Jesus didn't get upset at all. She broke it on Jesus and it poured down his head. Then she fell to his feet and anointed his feet and washed his feet with her tears.

John says she was on her knees before him worshiping him and confessing her sins. What a wonderful picture of what happened to this woman. Now, let me give you one other insight that John gives us happens a little bit earlier in the gospel of John.

In **John 8** he described an event that took place in Jerusalem just a few weeks before this, that event was a woman was trapped by the Pharisees. They laid a trap for her. They knew she was an adulteress. They knew she came from another community. She was having an affair and they caught her in the middle of it. They

dragged her out in the middle of the street to Jesus. They threw her down in front of Jesus and said, “Jesus, the law says such a woman ought to be put to death. She ought be stoned right here. Now, what do you say?”

John 8 – The adulteress woman

What would you say? They trapped her. They were trying to trap Jesus. Jesus did the wise thing. It’s a good thing for us to, to know how to respond as well. When somebody brings such a thing to you and you get upset. I'm sure Jesus was upset with their words. He didn't say anything. Here's what the scripture says in **John chapter eight**, Jesus just looked at them. Don't you hate it? When mom just looks at you, glaring eyes, he looks right through you. Jesus probably looked around at every one of those. You could see their anger because of their actions. He stooped down. The only place in Bible says Jesus wrote anything. He wrote in the sand. We are not told what he wrote. He wrote in the sand for a few moments, perhaps he was writing their sins, exposing their own guilt.

Then he stood up and looked at every one of them, He probably pointed his finger. Don't you love it when somebody puts their finger in your nose? Jesus said, “He that is without sin among you cast the first stone. You go ahead, cast stone. If you're without sin and any meltdown again. Then he continued to write. I love that Jesus didn't even want to look at them at a time like that, He gave them a chance to save face, and they did. Scripture says that while he wrote “one by one, the Pharisees walked away.” Every one of them convicted of their own sin. Then Jesus looked at the woman that was taken in her adultery and he said, “Your sins are forgiven. Go and sin no more.” John's hint here is that this was the same Mary who later on, known as Mary Magdalene, out of whom Jesus cast seven devils.

Now how's that possible? Let me draw all the picture for you. It was time of the feast and Mary Magdalene, Mary of Magdala, which was in the Northern part of Palestine up along the Sea of Galilee. That's where Magdala was. It was a city of 150,000 people. She probably lived her adult life there. She became a prostitute. She made her money by selling her body to the highest bidder. But in the holiday seasons, when almost all of Israel gathered in Jerusalem, she went down to Jerusalem because she could make more money. She could have more guys. She could practice her sins. She was there in Jerusalem at the time of the festivals and she was there at that time to be trapped. There Jesus encountered her and there Jesus forgave her. That evidently was not the whole story. Evidently later, Jesus cast out seven demons from her, the demon of addiction to her, her sin and whatever else was in her life needed to be expunged and washed away.

She needed to be cleansed and made whole. Mary got up from that situation and with, went back to her family who lived a few miles to Bethany where she was raised. There she found Lazarus and Martha where she began to live with them. It was only a few weeks later that we find this story taking place. That Jesus comes into the town of Bethany. He was at a banquet at the house of Simon the Leper and Lazarus was there with him, and Martha was serving. But Mary was thinking, "I'm not a very good servant. I'm not a very good cook. I can't do anything. What can I do?" She probably went into her bedroom and just looked around and said, "Lord, what can I do? I want to serve Jesus? I would love you to show him how much I love him." Then she spied that alabaster jar of precious ointment that she saved from her life of sin for her retirement.

Many archeological digs have found these alabaster jars that were carved by an artisan. And they were very, very expensive. She found that it was the sum total of everything that she had. It was her investment in the future. She spied that and said, "I will give him my all." And as she did! She came into the room and started to weep and walked up behind Jesus and then broke it open pouring it on his head. Then she poured it on his feet. She took her hair and unpinned it and let it flow down. Then she wiped his feet with her hair and washed his feet with her tears. The Bible says, as she did this she was confessing her many sins.

What a wonderful picture, a picture of a woman whose life was destroyed, marred by a life of sin. She was the prodigal daughter who came home.

Think of it for a moment. What would it be like if you were caught in the middle of your worst sin, you were doing something you knew you shouldn't know and suddenly the police broke in or your mom broke in or somebody else walked in on you and you got in trouble and you got jailed for it. Or at least you got dragged out in public. How humiliating was that kind of thing that took Mary to her crisis, where she confessed Jesus Christ, her Savior and asked that he would change her life. So Jesus said, "This story needs to be told everywhere. Everyone needs to know and understand that there is no sin that Jesus cannot forgive. There is no sin so great, no lifestyle that's so debase that Jesus Christ can't forgive and redeem.

Everyone listen, regardless of your sin, Jesus invites you to come just as you are and be transformed.

Mary, is the example of Jesus's love and forgiveness. He said, I know that everywhere the gospel is preached they talk about this is what Jesus came to do. Mary was the worst. She was the drags. She was demonized. She was a harlot, a prostitute. She was forgiven and transformed. What a wonderful, wonderful story of a woman who was forgiven much and therefore loved much.

2. The Action

Let's look at the act that she did. Let's look at the woman's action because that's the focus of this. She took that alabaster jar, a perfume that was very costly. The scripture calls it nard, not lard. Now I've never of anyone getting nard for Christmas? Anybody got nard for Christmas? My, my wife's mother, my mother-in-law always gets Channel Number Five. A few year ago my wife went out to buy it for her father and found out that it was expensive perfume. It cost like \$80 or \$90 for a little jar. I mean it was a little spritzer. It's not cologne. This is real perfume, man. You spray that little thing and the whole house stinks of it. That's just, that's just a little, that's not even nard, that's just Channel Number Five.

So I thought, let me research a little bit about perfume. Because I don't like perfume, perfume stinks. If you're a lady that uses a lot of perfume, just stay away from me? It chokes me up. I'm allergic to that smell.

So I researched a little bit about perfume. I found that there is a most expensive perfume in our day and it's called Cleve Christian Imperial Majesty for women. It costs \$6,800 an ounce.

- Amaffi Power for Women \$7,000
- Roja Haute Luxe perfumes \$3,500 3.4 oz limited to 500 bottles per year.
- Shalini Amorem Rose Perfume \$3,000 1 oz
- Viktor & Rolf Flower Bomb Haute Coulture \$2,700
- Tom Ford Rose Prick Au de Perfum Decanter \$1,300
- Jardin D'Amalfi, Luxury Perfume
- Roja Dove Diagalev. Priced at \$1,700
- Gerlaini's Coke Dor. 1,500 per ounce
- Dior Jador at a cool \$1 million for a
- Schumukh by the Spirit of Dubai. \$195 million for 500 ml.

It's called Dior Jador and it takes 10,000 flowers to put together this formula 28 dozens of raw roses and 10% of it is of rose bud itself. And Jasmine mixed together at a formula that becomes very, very potent and very expensive. This is what Mary had. She had this as her inheritance, perhaps. That's what she invested all of her income in. She took that. She had nothing else. And here's what she did. She brought it to Jesus. She broke it over him. She bathed him in it and she did a beautiful thing as Jesus said, and she was blessed for it.

God is concerned that we who have received the gospel and the transformed life by the Lord, Jesus Christ would respond into it in an appropriate way That we would

see the value of the Lord, Jesus Christ. And we would honor him with our very best. We've seen the actor. We've seen the action.

3. The Reaction

Now let's look at the reaction folks for every action that you do. There's a reaction. If you're going to do something for God, there's going to be a reaction. So it was with Mary. She took a bold step. She took that whole pound and spilled it over Jesus. And there was controversy. The disciples sat around, they looked at each other and said, "Woe, wait a minute. This is too much. She's gone way overboard. Judas took the lead. **He said, what a waste!** You could hear the room, get silent. He just said it. "What? You spilled that on Jesus That could have been sold for year's wages and given to the poor."

John said, it's not because he was concerned about the poor, but he had the bag. He was the treasurer and he was stealing from it. The other passages in the gospel say that wasn't the only one that spoke up. The other disciples, agreed with him and said, what a waste, what a shame.

I wonder how often we have that kind of reaction to sacrificial giving to the Lord Jesus Christ. When somebody really gives themselves to the Lord. When somebody in church gets really emotional as worshipping Jesus. We've seen it in our church and we encourage you to get emotional about Jesus. Don't get emotional about football. We don't care about that. I mean, it's nice, but get emotional about Jesus. We have seen people run down the altar. We've seen people prostrate on the floor worshipping the Lord. We've seen people raising their hands with tears streaming down their faces while others stand back and think that's disgusting. That's emotionalism.

If you were saved out of the dregs of sin like Mary and Jesus rescued you, you give all that. You have, you wouldn't care what anybody thinks. You'd bring the very best for the very best and say he is worthy of everything I have.

So Jesus silenced the disciples and said, "Leave her alone!. She has a beautiful thing. She's done it for me. She understands what you don't understand. She understands that I'm going to the cross. She understands the great price that I'm going to pay for your salvation. And she wanted to respond to that great price with a great offering. Leave her alone."

That was a significant offering this young woman gave. Here's the truth that every one of us need to understand for all of our lives. True discipleship always has a

cost. True discipleship. Following Jesus always involves a cost. David said it this way *“I will not offer to the Lord. That which costs me nothing.”*

You see anything that's given to God that's worthwhile needs to be surrendered. It needs to be broken open, like the alabaster jar. It needs to be ruined and poured out as a sacrifice to God, leave your hands off and give it to the Lord. Watchman Nee, a great Chinese pastor, teacher and writer speaks of this story in his book, the normal Christian life. He said, while he was finishing his ministry, he was an older man writing this. He said *“A few years ago, I went back to my hometown and there, I encountered a professor from law school who knew me then. The professor looked at me and saw I wasn't wearing nice clothes. I'd given my money to the poor and I'd given it to the Lord. My health was broken because of being in prison and doing all the things for Jesus. This professor looked at me and he said, “Watchman Nee. you were the top of the class. You were the best student I ever had. We had high hopes for you, but look at you. You've wasted your life.” Watchman said for a moment he felt like crawling into a hole and dying. He felt like a failure, but in that instant, he remembered Mary and the pouring out of the very best that they had and spilled on Jesus. So he turned to the professor and said, “I have not wasted my life on things that don't matter. I have invested my life. I have wasted my life on Jesus.”*

Can you say you've wasted your life on Jesus? Can you say you've been broken and spilled out? That you put it all in the altar and you've laid out all that God has given to you. Can you say, *“Lord, it's not mine. It's yours. I surrender it to you.”*? That's what God's looking for.

Most of us don't understand what happened to Mary, Martha and Lazarus later in life because we don't follow church history. But let me tell you what church history has taught us concerning their lives and what the end result of Mary's sacrifice was. Because we don't see it in this passage we don't realize what happened to them. We only see it reading history. The Roman Catholic Church has the historical archives going back to the early centuries. They have described what happened, written by the people that were there back then.

They tell us that after Mary, Martha and Lazarus were expelled from Jerusalem. They ran away from Jerusalem because of the persecution, about 45-60 A.D. They ended up in Cyprus, an island where they tried to build their home and start over anew. But they continued to preach the gospel but they were persecuted. Finally the Jews took them and put them in the boat. Mary, Martha Lazarus, with their two servants named Marsella and Maximim, who was one of the 72 disciples. They put

them out in the boat without oars, and without a sail hoping they'd be destroyed. Well by the mercy of God, That little boat took them to another shore. He brought them to the shore of the Marseilles, on southern coast of France. Lazarus got out and began to preach the gospel. Imagine the gospel that this guy could preach, this guy was raised from the dead after three days.

It was said the response was huge and many came to Christ and he, and he built a church there. Martha, being the busy worker built a convent up in the mountains where she rescued women of ill repute. She brought them to Jesus and they were saved and they dedicated their lives to the Lord. Mary, dear Mary dedicated herself to the Lord. They built just a little room in the chapel for her. She was called an anchorite, a woman dedicated to be in the temple of the Lord, day and night seeking the Lord in prayer. For the rest of her days, she loved and worshiped the Lord. Jesus, what a beautiful picture of a life wasted on Jesus.

I want everybody to know that you don't waste your life. When you give it to Jesus, you invest your life.

4. Our Actions: How Much Do You Love Jesus?

The disciples disapproved their reaction was negative, but Jesus reaction was positive. Jesus said, this woman has done a wonderful and beautiful thing. That's what worship is all about. Worship comes from the word worth, worth. Jesus is worth our expressions of joy and Thanksgiving. He is worth the surrender of our lives. The giving of our offerings, the sacrifice of ourselves to him worship that is true is always sacrificial. Jesus commended, the woman. He said that wherever the gospel has preached, this woman will be talked about in the book of revelation. We see Jesus in his, his glorified state and all the millions of people that were redeemed by the blood of the lamb stand before the lamb and they take off their crowns and they throw it at his feet and they lay down prostrate and worship him and say, Lord, you alone are worthy for you.

All the opportunities for serving the Lord here on earth will be gone. Someone once said only one life will soon be passed. Only what's done for Christ will last Jesus honors. Those who are broken and spilled out before him. Let me close with an illustration of this.

Dick Eastman Story

Dick Eastman is a, a evangelist missionary has organized a group of people, a, a ministry called every home for Christ. You can find it on the internet. And what they've done is they are in 50 or 60.

I think it's almost up to 80 nations now. And what they're doing is they're training people to go house to house with the gospel of Christ. They are doing this and millions are coming to Christ. Matter of fact, years ago, he reported that 50,000 people a month around the world are receiving crisis savior. And in one month's time, one special month, a million people received crisis savior, significant evangelist, but he says early in his ministry, he was just an evangelist. So he didn't have to preach every Sunday. He had about three sermons, that's it? Oh, to be an

Evangel, you got three sermons. You just keep working 'em over and over. They get better and better. Well, he got a call from a college president, uh, from the school where he used to attend. And the man said, Dick, I want you to come and do our spiritual emphasis week.

We have a real need. It was during the late sixties, early seventies. And they were doing that whole rebellion against authority thing. And the schools were, we were up in arms and they hated authority figures. We went through that in our school as well. And Dick said, well, I'm not the man. I'm not a great preacher. I, I don't have a bunch of sermons that I can preach. And the man said, no, we need you to come. And there were silence for a few moments. And Dick said that in a broken voice, he said, Dick, please come. He says, we need a man of prayer to come and challenge us, but God wants to break through on our campus. Well, Dick said, well, I'm not used to doing that. Let me pray about it. I'll get back to you. So he hung up and Dick said, he went into his bedroom.

Then he went into the bathroom and looked at himself in the mirror and he looked at himself and he said, I am not worthy to do this. I cannot do this. And when he said that, immediate, the Lord spoke to his heart and said, now you are worthy because you don't sense that you are, you are. So he got back on the phone and called the president and eventually got to the college to do the evangelistic, uh, uh, or revival meetings. But he said, one of the things they wanted to focus on in these revival meetings was praying in advance that God would pour out his holy spirit. And he said, as they pray, God revealed to him things that were going to take place during that week. And so in his first sermon to the, to the, the, uh, the student body was to stand up that Monday and tell them that God has great things to his door.

God's going to do wonderful things. This week. He had written it down on a little sheet of paper and it was in his Bible and he was talking and just preaching like crazy men do. And he was saying all that God was going to do. And he said, nobody could imagine what God's going to do, but he had it on a list. And then he realized God has already shown it to me. So he read it Monday. God's going to do this Tuesday. God's going to do this Wednesday. And so on, write down the list. And after the service was over, he realized I don't have messages on those topics. How's God going to do that. That next day, he poured himself into prayer, four hours of prayer and preparing his heart to preach. And he said, I couldn't come up with anything. He said, the only thing I had is that old youth sermon on a double portion of God's spirit.

So he got up and he preached that. He said, people came from him everywhere. Parents had heard of this and they drove four hours to get to the, to the, the school. And he said it was crowded maximum capacity. And he stood up there fearful, what am I supposed to say? So he began to preach. He preached that sermon on a double portion of his, the Holy Spirit. And he said, and it looked like nobody got anything out of it. You know, as pastors, as preachers, we can tell when you're listening and when you're knocked. And Dick said he was going to look out there and eyes were glazed, over heads were bobbing. And he said, even as he preached, he said it was difficult to even preach. And it didn't make sense to him. And about 25 minutes into the sermon, he thought I better quit and I'm going to run away and I'm going to hide. Or I'm just going to admit that I don't know what I'm doing. And he said about that time, a young lady got up and walked out of the sanctuary and he thought, oh no, they're going to start walking out one after the other. So he was trying to tie it together and bring it to a conclusion. He said about five minutes past. And she came back in, he said she had something in her hand. He said, I thought, for sure it was a gun.

He said, I kid you not. I mean, they were such an upright that school they'd kill anybody in authority. He said, she walked down the aisle and he said, I'm preaching away. And I'm talking to people and she's coming. I'm watching her outta the corner of my eye. She comes up to the platform. She walks right up to the platform, he's preaching. And he says, what I do when I preach and I'm not getting through to people, I get louder. So he said after about 30 minutes, I'm really screaming at the top of my lungs. And she walks up and says, excuse me. And he thought I can't avoid it now. So he turns over and he says, yes. And big says, I thought at that moment I was going to be blown away. And she lifted up the black thing that was in her hand. And she said, I wanna give this to the Lord. And he said, it wasn't a gun. It was a wallet. And the little girl started crying. And she said,

after Dick, I didn't hear anything. You were preaching. And Dick says, thank God. But she says, while I was sitting in the pew, Jesus kept talking to me and he kept saying, how much do you love me?

She said, then he reminded me of what was my room. And she says, I'm a, I'm a frugal person. I've saved all my, my money for college. And, and I a hoarded away. And I put it in my, a wallet and the Lord spoke to me and said, get up and go get your wallet. And she said, I went and got it. And when I came in the room, he said, go give it to the Lord. And she says, I've come to give everything that I have to the Lord because he's worthy. And I probably can't manage it. Dick says, he took that wallet from her. He was going to say, my dear, that's wonderful. Just go put it in the offering, please. You and the Lord stopped him. And he said, the Lord said, lift it up. He lifted up for everyone to see. And then he just started singing a chorus about giving to the Lord and what God will do with what you give to him. And he said his eyes were closed as he was just worshiping and giving that to God. And he said he felt a wind. And then when he opened his eyes, he realized what the wind was. The wind was all the students moving forward to the altar. He said from every corner of that building, the altar was full and people sobbing and crying and giving themselves to the Lord. And they were laying things on the altar. They were laying offerings on the altar.

They were bringing things to Lord. He said, it went out for hours. He said, after a few hours, a girl went back to the dorm, came back with a violin in, in the case. And she brought it and she laid it on the alter. He said, I approached her and said, what are you doing with that? And she says, well, I have played the violin all my life. I've won awards. I've been playing since I was a little child and I'm really good at it. But the Lord spoke to me tonight and he said, I have never played that violin for his glory. I've only played for mine

I want to give it to the Lord. And I will never ever play the violin again, unless I do it for God's glory before, look at that fact and thinking these parents going to hate me. They paid a lot of money for that. And indeed the lessons and everything else. But, you know, she was a broken person, giving a valuable gift to the Lord saying, God, I don't want it unless you're going to use it. Several other students came in, some brought keys to their cars, laid it on the altar, others, lots of offering. They gathered that offering together that night. And he said, the college knows what you get from college students in offerings. And he said, the highest offering they ever got from college students was \$500. They were involved in a building program. They needed 270,000 for the wing, uh, that they were building. He said that night

in that offering a loan \$27,000 came in 10%. The down payment that they needed was brought in by broken hearts.

See, God is concerned about giving our best to the Lord. He's concerned about our hoarding of our best gifts and abilities and our treasures and keeping them for ourselves as though we have the right to squander it on ourselves. That night, those young people were broken before the Lord and gave their lives to him. They surrendered their all to Jesus Christ.

How much do you love Jesus? No. I mean really? How much do you really love him for what he's done for you?

There are four things. I want to suggest that we ought to be giving to the Lord in sacrifice.

First of all, it's time. It's not all about money. God longs to get along with you. He longs to be with you. He long that you would hunger after him. How much time do you give him? Every day, five minutes, you take a little nickel, pass it to the Lord every day.

Or do you do like Jesus said to his disciples, “Could you not give an hour to me?” But I'm busy. My time is precious. Jesus said, yes, that's the point. If your time is precious given to me, let me take that time. Let me transform it. Let me do the things with you.

Then there's your tithe – the tithe belongs to God. I was in place long before the law of Moses. If you rebel against giving God his tithe then you are robbing God. The tithe is not yours. Read Malachi 3:10 *Bring all the tithe...prove me now...I will pour out a blessing that there is not room enough to receive it.* But it's not a New Testament commend. You want a New Testament command. They left all and followed him The Rich Young Ruler could not, because he could not let go of his money. The Widow gave her two coins, 1/5 of a penny, all she had. Paul commands generous giving in 1 Corinthians. “Give unto God what belongs to God, and to Caesar what belongs to Caesar. You give Caesar you April 15 tax but you won't give God his tithe. Mary, gave it all.

Then he talked about talents. What about the talents that you have? What about the abilities? God given you? What about serving the Lord in some way? I'm so thankful for our church. We have hundreds of people that serve the Lord, literally hundreds that serve the Lord between the choir and the orchestra and musicians and children's ministry and youth ministry and adult ministries and, and parking

lot. And everything else that goes on. Hundreds of people are serving the Lord with their gifts, but there are hundreds of others that aren't doing anything with their gifts. What are you doing with what God has given to you? I was startled a few months ago to learn how many of our, our church people are going on ministries overseas, or going down south to build home for those less fortunate people down in new Orleans. We counted over 50 of our students and adults that are going overseas on missions trips this year alone. Isn't that great. Give the Lord a round of applause. These people are giving their lives.

Testimony - We have wonderful testimonies and they're in a testimony booklet that we're going to prepare for for next week. And that will be on your tables. And that's the other thing you can give to the Lord is your testimony. And we've got some people that have been transformed. We have people that sat in this congregation under conviction and the Lord got a hold of their hearts right here about their drug addiction.

They left this building transformed because of what Jesus has done. We have people that were taken in a sin like Mary, and that we're living an ungodly life for years. And they've come into this church and they've heard the preaching of gospel. And they said, it's hit them right between the eyes. Jesus got a hold of their heart and they go back home and God says, you got to leave it. You got to lay it down. You got to break the jar and give my life, give your life to him. And they did. God has transformed them.

God wants to do wonderful things with his people. With your **time**, with your **talents**, with your **tithe**, with your **treasures**, with your **testimony**

We're going to close with that song and Keith Green is going to. And as he does, I ask you, look at the images and look at the words and ask God what you have that needs to be surrendered to the Lord.

Broken & Spilled Out

Steve Green

One day a plain village woman
Driven by love for her Lord
Recklessly poured out a valuable essence
Disregarding the scorn
And once it was broken and spilled out
A fragrance filled all the room
Like a prisoner released from his shackles
Like a spirit set free from the tomb

Chorus

*Broken and spilled out
Just for love of you, Jesus
My most precious treasure
Lavished on thee
Broken and spilled out
And poured at your feet
In sweet abandon
Let me be spilled out
And used up for Thee*

Lord you were God's precious treasure
His loved and his own perfect Son
Sent here to show me the love of the Father
Just for love it was done
And though you were perfect and holy
You gave up yourself willingly
You spared no expense for my pardon
You were used up and wasted for me

Matthew 26:6-13

⁶ While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, ⁷ a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

⁸ When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. ⁹ “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.”

¹⁰ Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹ The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. ¹³ Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

Luke 7:36-50

³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.”
“Tell me, teacher,” he said.

⁴¹ “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii,^[a] and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

⁴³ Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”
“You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected,

⁵ “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷ “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

John 8