

A Very Expensive Gift
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And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her. But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her." Mark 14:3-9

Have you ever given someone a very expensive gift? A gift that was more than they expected, perhaps even more than you could really afford? Did they accept it? Did they try to refuse?

The woman who anoints Jesus gives Him an expensive gift. The perfume that she pours out on His head was worth a whole year's salary for an average worker, tens of thousands of dollars in today's money. "Too much!" say the disciples. "Too expensive. Too extravagant." The disciples scold the woman. But not Jesus. He calls what she has done "beautiful." He sees the love and sacrifice of the woman and recognizes the beauty therein.

In a few short days, Jesus would be broken and spilled out on the cross, just like the alabaster flask that had contained the perfume. The most expensive, the most precious gift of all was given there on the cross purely out of love for you. The sight of Jesus dying is the most beautiful sight in all the world, because His shed blood shows the depth of His love for you.

And because Jesus held nothing back, because He gave everything for you, you are then inspired to give everything, your whole life to Him. Nothing is too expensive, too precious to lay at the feet of Jesus to show your love and gratitude for His sacrifice.