

A BEAUTIFUL WORK BY MARY OF BETHANY

Mark 14:6

Ordinary People Used By God Series

Introduction: People have not always agreed with Jesus and then Jesus has not always agreed with people. Here is a text and its surrounding story that reveals both. Mary of Bethany did something that brought complaints from some but Jesus was impressed with what she did.

I. JESUS WAS VERY PLEASED WITH MARY

1. Mary had done something very foolish in Judas' opinion.
 - It was extravagant.
 - It was foolish.
 - It was wasteful.
 - It was money thrown away.
2. Jesus sees things clearly and sees them in their entirety.
 - Jesus sees the heart.
 - Jesus sees with love.
3. Jesus is more skilled in judging than any other living being.
 - Jesus sees the best in everyone and everything.
 - Jesus has the "experience" to pass judgment.
4. Jesus is the creator of all that which is beautiful, therefore He can speak with authority on what is beautiful and what is not.

II. WHAT IMPRESSED JESUS ABOUT WHAT MARY DID?

1. Jesus was impressed by Mary's motive.
 - Mary acted out of love and devotion to Jesus.
 - What was Judas' motive when he kissed Jesus in the Garden?
 - Why does a mother accept a crumpled flower from her little child who is dirty?
 - The motive behind an act determines its value.
2. Mary's deed was done in recklessness.
 - She could have used just a little bit, but she poured all of the ointment on Jesus.
 - She was totally unselfish in what she did. She held back absolutely nothing.
3. Mary's deed was unique.
 - Mary could not cook or keep house like her sister Martha.
 - Mary could love and give unselfishly though.
 - Love cannot be hidden. It will in somehow find a way to express itself.

4. Mary's deed was timely.
 - Nicodemus have over 100 pounds of ointment - **AFTER** Jesus had died.
 - Others, too, were **late** in giving to Jesus.
 - Mary expressed her love to Jesus **before** He died.

III. WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME OF WHAT MARY DID?

1. Mary was not seeking any recognition whatsoever, yet Jesus declared that what she did would be remembered throughout eternity.
2. Jesus remembered Mary then and even now: *"..wheresoever this Gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that this woman has done shall be spoken of as a memorial of her..."*
3. The memory of Mary of Bethany will last as long as the Gospel lasts.
4. What Mary did helped Jesus:
 - Jesus was ready to die.
 - It strengthened Him for what was ahead.
 - What value is a smile?
 - What value is a hug?
 - What value is a mother's kiss on a bruised knee?
5. What Mary did helped others.
 - The entire house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment.
 - It has sweetened the atmosphere through the centuries of all believers.

SUMMARY:

1. We are not to be like Judas and be blind to the motive and deeds of others.
2. We, like Mary can do **something**. She did her best. She gave all of what she had.
3. To offer what we have is all that we can do and that is all it takes to please Jesus.