

The Broken Vessel
Mark 14:3-9

Intro:

1. On the day of 9/11 many common people did uncommon things. I'm sure everyone remembers where they were on that day, and exactly what they were doing when they found out.
2. Brave men and women raced up the stairs of two burning sky scrapers without a thought of their own lives. Their minds were on the lives of other people.
3. I wonder sometimes to myself if I would have done what they did. Just common people turned to heroes in a matter of minutes.
4. The Bible is full of stories about ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Examples: Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Jonah, and the disciples of Jesus Christ.
5. But there has been one reoccurring theme amongst these people and it is, "They gave their whole lives to the Lord. The extraordinary power that they received to go these great wonders came from above.
6. Mark 8:35, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."
7. APP: Young people in a day when things are very ordinary, you can do something extraordinary, if only you give your life to Christ.
8. WE MUST GIVE CHRIST OUR LIVES.

HOW?

I. By Making Unusual Decisions (v. 3, 4)

1. The story tonight is about the breaking of the alabaster jar. It is about a women who, in the presence of Jesus. Who was so overwhelmed by who He was and what He had done in her life. That She did for one time in her life that which everyone around thought was foolish.

2. Jesus was on a journey his last on to Jerusalem before they crucified him. He stopped in a town called Bethany. Simon the leper had invited Him over for dinner. (The Bible doesn't say who Simon was, but obviously he had to be a healed leper or he wouldn't of been allowed in town)
3. He is probably one of the many people that Jesus touched and healed from the disease of leprosy.
4. There were many people present at Simon's house for the feast even the disciples.
5. We will pick it up in verse 3.
6. In the book of John, we are told that this women's name is Mary.
7. She made a very unusual decision to come in front of all these people and pour perfume on her Saviors head.
8. Because of the humidity and many other factors back then, water, oil, and a towel were offered to guest of a house to cool off and refresh their skin.
9. But it was unheard of what Mary decided to use.
10. The disciples were amazed. Many of them had indignation.
11. Indignation means, " insert definition"
12. They looked down on her in shame. They thought it was a waste
13. Have you made any decisions for the Lord that your friends and family have questioned. Or have you changed your decision based on what they thought?
14. ILL: **Basketball Decision**
15. APP: Some people might not understand the decision that we as Christians make. It could be to become a missionary, to give our money or tithe to the church, to go to Bible College, to become a pastor.
16. You giving your life to God and surrendering your will give Him the opportunity to do extraordinary things in your life for His Glory.
17. You will never regret a decision that you made for the Lord.

II. By Having Unusual Priorities (v. 5-7)

1. Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."
2. Read verse 5. The ointment that Mary used was said to be worth over 300 pence. Guess what the equivalent of that in today's time is . . . \$15,000. That makes Tommy, Eternity, and Calvin Klien perfumes seem like toilet water!! Ok, maybe not that bad.
3. In verse five the disciple, who is unnamed in the book of Mark, but is named in Matt. and John. It was Judas Iscariot. He said, "Couldn't we have sold that and given it to poor. He probably thought that Jesus was going to agree with him.
4. Then Jesus surprised him in Vs. 6 Read Vs. 6-7
5. Judas had placed helping the poor before loving the Lord. His priorities were out of balance.
6. Proverbs 11:1, "A false balance is an abomination to the Lord but a just weight is his delight.
7. **ILL: Priorities**-A group of friends went deer hunting and paired off in twos for the day. That night, one of the hunters returned alone, staggering under an eight-point buck. "Where's Jeff?" he was asked. "Jeff had a stroke of some kind. He's a couple of miles back up the trail." "You left Jeff laying there and carried the deer back?" "Well," said the hunter, "I figured no one was going to steal Jeff."
8. We can get off balance in our lives placing people, possessions, money, and our time before God. If we do that God can not bless us and we can't grow more like Christ
9. Mary poured this perfume on Him worth 15,000 and after that in the book of John it says that she used her hair to clean his feet the ultimate picture of humility and love
10. She showed Christ was first in her life. Is he first in your life.

III. By Giving an Unusual Love. (v. 8,9)

1. The best part of the story takes place in verse 8. Underline this phrase, "She hath done what she could."
2. Mary did all that she could to show her love for her Lord. And the Lord was satisfied with that.
3. She displayed a Love that the disciples couldn't explain.
4. In verse 9, The Lord Jesus made a memorial to her, He said, "I want the whole world to know about this gift she has given.
5. How awesome would that be to know that Jesus was so pleased with your life He wanted to use it as an example.
6. **ILL:** Some time ago, a teenager, Arthur Hinkley, lifted a 3,000 pound tractor with his bare hands. He wasn't a weight lifter, but his friend, Lloyd Bachhelder, 18, was pinned under a tractor on a farm near Rome, Maine. Hearing Lloyd scream, Arthur somehow lifted the tractor enough for Lloyd to wriggle out. Love motivated him to do it.

Our Father in heaven heard the screams of lost humanity, crying out for deliverance. He sent His one and only precious Son to the cross so that our sins could be lifted off of us and on to Himself, Love motivated Him to do it.

Conclusion:

Do you love Him enough to give him the most valuable thing you have? Your Life!