

Love's Extravagance

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Mark 14:1-25.
- B. Mark is drawing together two lines of truth centering on hate and love.
- C. The priests were growing aware that the time to act against Jesus was running short.
- D. Jesus' whole way of living was a threat to the priests.

II. The story of the love of Mary at Bethany.

- A. The act of loving sacrifice.
- B. The response of indignation from Judas.
- C. The response of Jesus.
 - 1. There are some things you cannot put value on.
 - 2. Jesus says several things about this act.
 - a. It was beautiful. She poured it all out.
 - b. It was timely. There are events that must be seized at the moment.
 - c. It was feasible. She did what she could. We are only asked to bring God what is at hand.
 - d. It was insightful since it anticipated His death. She deliberately came to prepare Jesus for His burial.
 - e. It was memorable. It would be told all over the earth.

III. The betrayal of Judas.

- A. Judas sought an occasion to betray Jesus.
- B. Judas bargained with the priests for just a little money—it was common ordinary greed that drove him.

IV. Preparation for the Passover feast.

- A. The preparations were pre-arranged, but there were signals that are important.

1. A man was carrying a jar, which would have been the normal expectation for a woman.

2. This looks to the picture of living water. (John 7)

B. Judas and John reclined close to Jesus during the Last Supper when He spoke of Judas's betrayal.

1. Jesus predicted that one of His own would betray Him.

2. He declares woe upon this person—Judas chose to betray Jesus.

C. Jesus teaches symbolically through the Last Supper.

1. He foreshadows His body that would be broken.

2. He teaches them about the New Covenant by His death through faith.

V. The story of Mary at Bethany re-visited.

A. She broke the alabaster jar, as Jesus' body was broken.

B. She poured out the fragrance as Jesus' blood was poured out.

C. This story pictures the extravagant love of Jesus poured out by Him through His sacrifice.

Application questions:

1. Why was Judas's response so inappropriate to Mary's act? Are there times when an extravagant amount of money should be given to the poor instead?

2. How does Mary's act insightfully symbolize Jesus' sacrifice?

3. What kind of extravagant displays of love for Jesus parallel Mary's act today?
