

Message November 2019 ON GIVING

Matthew 26:6-13 Mark 14:3-9 John 12:1-8 (Luke 7:36-39)

Father gave little girl 2 dollars & said you can spend \$1 but other \$1 is for God As she ran to the candy store she fell & \$1 rolled into the storm drain She said as she got up Well Lord there goes your dollar

Stewardship	1
Giving not just tithe but over & above it Church/Missions	2
Giving of our time to serve Lord ie Fiji/Community Jesus gave heal, feed, love, teach, save John 3:16	3
Giving of Ourselves totally to Him	

GIVING AT ANY LEVEL HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH WHAT YOU GIVE & EVERYTHING TO DO WITH THE CONDITION OF YOUR HEART Why called Word 'The Heart of Giving'

We compensate by giving money & time but not spending time with God

MARTHA was server – not enough just to serve – love by our hands (not wrong) But sometimes get priorities wrong rather serve God or attend Church but carry on as usual rest of the week

BETHANY was close 3.5 kms from Jerusalem people were going to their lodgings – it was very busy Find Jesus in a safe familiar place because the authorities were plotting to kill Him – 6 days from Passover is where we pick up this story

SIMON LEPER been healed (Mark) he was father & was a jar maker/potter	In
those days Name Association – leper, prostitute, dead, blood disorder, disabled (identified as)	
John version – LAZARUS/MARY/MARTHA in house	

Disciples there were crowds come see Lazarus/Jesus Why read John 11:28-45 esp 32-35,39,43

THREE THINGS BEFORE ENTER HOUSE	1
host places hand on shoulder & gives you a kiss of peace	2
sandals would be taken off & theyd be cool water to wash them in	3
custom to drop 1or 2 drops perfume on the guest as they arrived	

Arrived be taken to the open courtyard a square with maybe plants & fountain where they would eat on a nice day If Rabbi was present the home became an open home (didn't need an invite) Theyd be reclining in much like what we call beanie bags or low couches They'd be low coffee table type where food would be put on If someone was standing you'd feel they were towering over them

1 MARY WANTED TO SPEND TIME WITH JESUS shed been listening to Jesus she knew He was going to the Father She didn't want to miss this last opportunity

MARY Luke 10:39 sitting at Jesus feet, listening to the Word Spending time with Jesus to be in His presence was her priority See everyone missed it even disciples they were preoccupied except MARY

MARY sat at His feet She gave Him HER TIME, HER ATTENTION & HER DEVOTION

Jesus wasn't there to teach/minister but to be ministered too It was time to receive Mary ministered to Jesus How much time do you spend ministering to Jesus? Being around Jesus was all that mattered to focus on Him MARY was not only devoted but committed to Jesus 100%

2 MARY GAVE THE MOST PRECIOUS THING SHE COULD GIVE 2 types alabaster vials one worn around neck small one them was one talking about here much bigger jar IT WAS PURE nard perfume a rare plant originated in India 12oz 340g not de toilet (the watered down version)

IF YOU GIVE WHAT YOU DON'T NEED IS IT REALLY GIVING? le Pearse gave best brand new shoes to person on the street who needed them more than he did WHATS THE MOST PRECIOUS THING YOU HAVE ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE IT UP?

'A gift is never really a gift when we can easily afford it, a gift is truly becomes a gift only when there is a sacrifice behind it & when we give far more than we can afford'

3 MARY KNEW THE JAR HAD TO BE BROKEN Jar/flask made precious stone/ alabaster very strong like marble usually beautiful but it was sealed The jar had to be broken it was no good in the jar the seal had to be broken

PRINCIPLE: before we become useful to God we have to be broken God uses broken people to bring restoration, healing & deliverance Jeremiah 18:6 God is potter in His hands molds us into His image break me – melt me - mold me - fill me (process)

PURE & FRESH anointing head flows down to His feet ie is it fresh cried a fellow traveller when he found spaghetti under the table

4 MARY HUMBLER HERSELF humility isnt selfish its where pride & arrogance have no place

MARY wasn't with Jesus alone there were lots men See her SELFLESS ACT an EXTRAVGENT giving from her heart IT WAS PUBLIC, SPONTANEOUS, LAVISH, SCARIFICAL, PERSONAL & UNINHIBITED it was simply an act of true humility

Giving is an attitude Attitude that requires action either be of the Mind or the Heart

5 MARYS HEART RULED HER NOT HER HEAD it came from her inner being INTERNAL NOT EXTERNAL She was prepared to forgo the custom of her time for Jesus 'we don't do it that way'

John describes anointing His feet with her hair 1
 Corinthians 11:15 'a woman has long hair it's her glory' All humility went to his feet normally hair is bound up – immoral to have it out She did what she felt she needed to do because of it was from her heart SHE TOOK THE OPPURNITY SO MANY TIMES WE MISS IT cause we make excuses

Wouldn't be another chance until His death (be too late) Take opportunity when it comes From
 womans perspective she took the lead Men if we don't take lead God will use woman

6 MARY WAS PREPARED TO BE VULNERABLE Mistaken & misunderstood she was

Charles H Spurgeon had chooks & he'd sell eggs people would say why doesn't he give the eggs away & he was criticised for it When he died it was revealed that the money they received from eggs supported 2 widows

We get critical when we don't understand the heart MOTIVE of the person

JUDAS sounded spiritual & a right motive? (he was about to turn Jesus in) give the money to poor sounds right wasn't wrong it was practical, caring, seemingly right thing to do, just wrong time

IT WASN'T ABOUT THE COST OR MONEY? Disciples perceived as spiritual act too Note Jesus didn't criticise but said the poor will always be with us – GET THINGS INTO PERSPECTIVE Jesus leave her alone her motive was out of a heart of worship It wasn't just a good deed Jesus said she did a beautiful thing

7 MARY: THE OUTCOME OF HER GIVING WAS OVERFLOW Not talking about prosperity but Giving & in doing so well be blessed & be a blessing

Mark 'wherever Gospel preached in the whole world what this woman has done will be spoken in memory of her' Perfume filled room – permeated – lingered – remembered (Bill Subrisky – fragrance of Holy Spirit)

ONE ACT WHOLE WORLD IS AFFECTED BY IT (impacts others)

OVERFLOW Luke 6:38 'Give & it shall be given unto you A good measure pressed down shaken together & running over will be poured out'

Phil 4:8 'fragrant offering an acceptable sacrifice pleasing to God'

LOVE GIVES IT ALL 'LOVE IS NOT SOMETHING YOU FEEL ITS SOMETHING YOU DO' (David Wilkerson) Our response is to Worship

Play ALABASTER JAR by Rend Collection

Chorus I will bow my life, At your feet, at your feet My lips so lost for words Will kiss your feet, kiss your feet