

September 2, 2007

**What She Could  
Mark 14:1-11**

A good sub-title – ‘Where are you in this story?’

In her extraordinary act of love for Jesus the houseguests were unnerved and rather than praise her act they began to eat away at her devotion.

**Jesus steps in...** (He exposes the woman’s critics by praising the woman’s action)

- **Vs. 6** – He first praises her act as being a beautiful one – ‘good’ – **1 Peter 2:12**
- **Vs. 7** – He exposes the hearts of her critics – Quotes Deuteronomy 15 – 5 minutes before – **Judas** – revealed how little they valued Jesus Himself...
- **Vs. 8** – Jesus says that this woman ‘did what she could’ – Her devotion was marked by a willingness to give all she held dear because she loved Jesus more.

More than anything you can do, God Loves offerings of the heart – to the casual observer our friend’s offering was expensive and wasteful – but to her it was an act of love and adoration.

What is it that God wants? He wants you, of course. This is the real difference between this woman and her critics – They couldn’t recognize that she was giving more than a year’s wages – she was giving herself.

What is the value you put on Jesus?

- **Judas** saw Him as a losing cause, someone to no longer waste his time on.
- **Simon the Leper** saw Him as a celestial Santa Clause (he forgot the healing of God in his life)
- **The Disciples** obviously took Him for granted (they had seen His compassion in action)

But our **Friend** – It was customary for a servant to wash the feet of the guests of a house, yet this woman washed Jesus' body with a year's salary!

So where are you in the story? A better question: What does this incident reveal about you?

The Gospel reveals that we can't fit into this woman's sandals until we realize our own inner pollution.

But deeper, it reveals, as with our self-righteous friends, how deeply I **don't** want the Gospel to expose me – how terrified I am at the prospect of being known and seen for what I really am. Yet the Gospel demonstrates over and over that at the heart of our Faith is a Redeemer who discarded all caution and self-protection...

The Gospel teaches that these things are to be repented of, not covered, to be admitted, and not hidden, and to be offered for fellow sinners to find hope in His work in us.

Because of course the Passover was always meant to be a picture of the Gospel – Jesus, the Firstborn that was not spared – the true Lamb of God – **Romans 8:32** – 'He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all...'