

HOW MUCH IS JESUS WORTH?

...there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard;
and she broke the vial and poured it over His head. *Mark 14:3*

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK 14:1-11

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Preliminary Point 1: Understanding Jesus' teaching in Mark 13 as all directed foundationally to events within the lifetime of Jesus' first disciples (*though pointing to things beyond such as the bodily resurrection and redemption of believers and the new heavens and new earth*) does not narrow us to one particular viewpoint of last things.

Preliminary Point 2: Scripture by the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit does "speak" to us today, corporately and individually, but not in ways contrary to its meaning for the original hearers or readers.

Mark 14:1-2 How much is Jesus worth to the chief priests and scribes?

The irony of Passover as chief priests and scribes seek to keep Jesus' death away from the time of the festival

Matthew 26 1 When Jesus had finished all these words, He said to His disciples, 2 "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be handed over for crucifixion."

Jesus, the religion killer, will never be liked by those who place high value on their own authority and position.

Mark 14:10-11 How much is Jesus worth to Judas?

Judas is *one of the twelve*: insiders are not immune from the temptation to betrayal

Matthew 26 14 Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. 16 From then on he *began* looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.

What are your expectations for Jesus? What must he be to you? Are you setting yourself up to betray him?

Mark 14:3 How much is Jesus worth to Simon and the woman?

Lunch at the Leper's house: Simon previously healed by Jesus? Lazarus at the table? Mary and Martha there?

A leper and now a woman again: she, as the widow with the two coins, did what she could (14:8). Nard was made from the root of a plant found in the high country of India, thus its value: an average person's year's salary.

The widow, in faithfulness, gave to the temple Jesus condemns to destruction (12:42); this woman anoints the temple of God who will go into the grave and be raised in three days.

The anointing is explicitly for his burial, but in the rich irony of God's plan she is anointing *the anointed one (the Messiah)* and anointing the King to prepare for his redemption of his kingdom.

Psalm 23 A Psalm of David. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 2 1 Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 3 "Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!" 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. 5 Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, 6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain." 7 "I

will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.' ⁸ 'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.' ⁹ 'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.' ¹⁰ Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth. ¹¹ Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling. ¹² Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

Mark 14:4-5 How much is Jesus worth the Disciples?

⁴ But some were indignantly *remarking* to one another, "Why has this perfume been wasted? ⁵ "For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and *the money* given to the poor." And they were scolding her.

Matthew 26 ⁸ But the disciples were indignant when they saw *this*, and said, "Why this waste?"

John 12 ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?" ⁶ Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.

It was traditional at Passover to give to the poor; are the disciples seeing and hearing Jesus or are they caught up in themselves and their own doings?

How easily are you swayed by the expressed opinions of those around you? How can you be more anchored by Jesus' heart and Jesus' concerns?

Various "theologies" and "emphases" diminish Jesus while elevating us: *Liberation theology*: the poor are more important than Jesus. *Male headship as dominance...* *Feminism....* *Marriage/Nuclear Family...* *Nationalism...* *All ideas are equal...*

This woman freely abandoned herself to honor Jesus.

Mark 14:6-9 How much is Jesus worth?

How much is this woman's love and faith worth to Jesus?

This woman gave much to honor him, love him [her inheritance? a family heirloom] risking some of her future.

How much is Jesus worth to you?

How much is Jesus worth to the Father?

It's Passover; Judas, the chief priests and scribes, instead of seeking to rid themselves of the corrupting leaven of sin, seek to rid themselves of the unsettling Son of God. America and our world do the same.

God, doesn't take the first born of the priests and scribes as he did with Pharaoh and Egypt, instead he hands over his own unique Son, who alone can cleanse and remove the corruption of our rebellion and sin.

Romans 3 ²¹ But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; ²⁵ whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

As the woman poured out all of the fragrant perfume, so Jesus poured out all of his fragrant blood to buy us back to God! Grace is not poured out grudgingly!

Jesus and his death are worth the creation to his Father. We dare not value him less.

Ephesians 5 ¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; ² and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.