

POURING IT OUT ON JESUS

March 11, 2018 | Pastor Randy Remington

Introduction

Last week, Pastor Keith talked about a story in John 12 about the woman's wholehearted worship of Jesus.

We are going to look at this same story in Matthew 26, and we are going to look particularly at the disciples' response to this woman's worship.

Matthew 26: 6-13, "While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, 7 a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

8 When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. 9 "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor."

10 Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 11 The poor you will always have with you,[a] but you will not always have me. 12 When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.13 Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

The disciples were "indignant" when they saw her worship of Jesus. They were still not aware of what Jesus was all about. They didn't know that Jesus was supposed to die.

Jesus says that this story of the woman anointing Him will be told throughout the world and now here we are years later talking about this story.

The contents of the alabaster jar was worth a year's wage and the woman whom poured it out had a bad reputation in the community. Yet, Jesus accepted it and walked away smelling like the it. The woman, who had poured out her offering in faith also walked away with the same fragrance as Jesus.

WHEN WE WORSHIP, WE BECOME LIKE THAT WHICH WE WORSHIP.

When we worship we invite two things:

1. Scorn and criticism (but in the Scriptures God comes to the defense of those who are being scorned for worshiping Him)
2. Jesus comes to the defense of this woman for worshiping Him. Sometimes worship costs us something.

Let's look at the disciples response to this woman. Judas was an extreme version of what the rest of the disciples were expecting. He was expecting Israel to be liberated from her oppressors, and rule the world (rooted in Old Testament vision for God's Kingdom being established on earth through Israel). Judas did not understand Jesus. He honored Jesus as a cause, rather than a person.

Sometimes, we bargain with God:

"God, if you do this then I will do ____." Often this is what causes people to lose their faith: "I thought God would _____ but He didn't come through."

WHEN YOU SEEK JESUS AS A MEANS TO AN END, THEN WE HAVE CREATED A GOD IN OUR OWN IMAGE.

This woman, in this story, saw Jesus for what He really was. She was all in.

Meanwhile, Judas was convinced that his perspective was correct. And Jesus was not meeting his expectations. So, Judas went from:

Disillusionment -> Disengagement -> Destruction -> Despair

Question: How often do we get disillusioned in following Jesus when our expectations aren't met?

But the moment that we take what seems important to us, and pour it out before Jesus. Our God looks at us and says "I'm going to transform you, if you Trust me."

Matthew 26:47-56, "While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people.48 Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him."49 Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

50 Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend."[d]

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. 51 With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

52 "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. 53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

55 In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. 56 But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled."

There is nothing that hurts worse than betrayal. Because betray is a matter of trust that has been broken from somebody that you thought was worthy of that trust.

And when we are betrayed, we reach for the sword. The disciple tried to force God's hand in order to make happen his (Judas's) agenda.

But God's will not be thwarted, you can't force His hand and you cannot stop His hand.

Matthew 27:1-10, "Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. 2 So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

3 When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. 4 "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

5 So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

6 The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." 7 So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. 8 That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9 Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, 10 and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Judas got what he wanted which was 30 pieces of silver, but was overcome with remorse and what he got he then found detestable. Same with us, when we sell out Jesus for what we think we wanted, it will become detestable to us.

Whenever we find something we feel like is more important than Jesus, we will soon find that it will lose its appeal.

God will not get in the way of you trying to have your own way. Even when it undermines your own future and your well being, He will honor your insistence on getting your way. And there is a consequence that is born with great sorrow.

Judas could have repented. But he didn't. Peter repented, but Judas didn't repent, and he was overcome with remorse and killed himself.

What is it in your life that is represented as most precious to you?

When I determine that God exists to serve my end and I sell out Jesus to lay hold of something, in the end I will always lose it.

But if I take that thing and pour it out on Jesus and surrender it to Him, then it becomes a part of something so much greater. Jesus will then take responsibility for that.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of when you reflect on the sacrifice the woman made in anointing Jesus?
2. Where do you see yourself in the story? Would you identify more with the woman who was accepted by Jesus, or the disciples who were uncomfortable with Jesus' acceptance of the woman?
3. In what areas of your life are you trying to take control and force God's agenda to be your agenda?
4. What are the disillusionments you have experienced in following Jesus? What does that reveal to you about your heart?