

The Woman Who Recognized the King's Worth: A Lesson in Faith and Worship

Mark 14:6 And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.

This unnamed woman's act of worship and devotion has echoed through the centuries, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and honoring Jesus for who He truly is—regardless of societal judgment or worldly valuation. This woman's story unfolds against a backdrop of misunderstanding, criticism, and misplaced priorities, revealing that sometimes, those closest to Jesus may miss His true worth, while outsiders and strangers may see Him more clearly. Her act of pouring an expensive ointment upon Jesus' head and body was not only an expression of heartfelt devotion but also an act of prophetic faith, foreshadowing His death and resurrection, which she herself seemed to grasp more profoundly than many of those in the room.

This woman provoked strong reactions—disapproval from the disciples and especially Judas Iscariot, who was so consumed with monetary calculations that he saw her act as wasteful. The verse in John 12:4-5 (KJV) exposes Judas's mindset: "Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?" Judas's expertise in valuing material possessions starkly contrasts with his ignorance of Jesus' divine worth. He knew the cost of earthly treasure but was blind to the immeasurable value of Jesus Christ, the Savior. His perspective exemplifies a tragic blindness—valuing possessions and money more than the Messiah Himself—highlighting how many today are seduced by materialism and unable to recognize the spiritual riches found only in Christ.

Interestingly, only this woman saw Jesus' true worth, and her act of devotion earned His commendation. She understood that Jesus was not just a prophet, healer, or teacher, but the very Lamb prepared to be sacrificed for humanity's sins. Her understanding was so profound that Jesus declared in Matthew 26:13 (KJV), "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her." Her alabaster box of expensive ointment became a symbol of worship and faith, inspiring generations to honor Jesus directly and passionately. Unlike the others who hesitated or dismissed her act, Jesus recognized her devotion as a

“good work,” a heartfelt response that directly honored Him at an appropriate and prophetic moment.

The woman’s act also underscores a crucial spiritual lesson: it is often acceptable—and sometimes necessary—to stand apart from the crowd in order to honor Jesus authentically. Her act was bold, private, and sacrificial; she did not seek approval from the religious leaders, the apostles, or even her peers. She knew her act was for the Lord alone. Sometimes, church traditions or societal expectations can hinder our genuine worship; but when the Lord Himself approves, that is all that matters. Romans 14:4 (KJV) reminds us, “Who art thou that judgest another man’s servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth.” Our acts of devotion must ultimately be judged by Jesus, not by man’s approval or disapproval.

This woman’s devotion also brings us to David’s story—a young shepherd who was despised and underestimated by everyone, including his own family and King Saul. In 1 Samuel 17:32-37 (KJV), David boldly declares, “Let no man’s heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine,” despite the skepticism around him. David’s faith in his God was unwavering, and his trust in divine power was his true weapon against Goliath. Just as David refused to wear the armor offered by Saul and instead used his sling and stones—his “alabaster box”—to confront Goliath confidently, the woman’s act of pouring out expensive ointment at Jesus’ feet was her prophetic worship—her “sling and stone”—that struck at the heart of her faith and worship. She was not afraid of the criticism or the worldly valuation; she saw Jesus as worth every sacrifice.

Her act foreshadowed a day when Jesus Himself would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey, the crowds crying “Hosanna to the Son of David” (Matthew 21:9, KJV). The same Jesus who allowed her to anoint Him publicly was about to be coronated as King—His triumphal entry foreshadowing His eternal reign. Her anointing was almost like a prophetic declaration that Jesus deserved royal honor, not just after His resurrection, but even now as the King coming into His kingdom. She was a prophetess in her own right, preaching silently through her act that Jesus was destined for kingship, that He would die and rise again, and that her devotion was rooted in deep spiritual insight and faith. She transcended societal boundaries, mainstream religious expectations, and even the skepticism of the disciples, who, aligning with Judas’s materialistic outlook, failed to see the divine purpose of Jesus’ mission. Her alabaster box was not merely a vessel of ointment; it was a symbol of her faith, her love,

and her prophetic understanding that Jesus was soon to become the Suffering Servant, the Lamb slain for mankind — a truth the others had yet to grasp fully.

This woman's act was a form of worship that transcended the physical—she poured out her best because she understood that Jesus deserved nothing less. She knew that her costly gift was a form of honor that could not be bought or sold—her love and devotion were her true offering. And this is the crux of her example: When you truly recognize Jesus' worth, you will be willing to sacrifice everything—your time, your resources, even your reputation—to honor Him. Her story teaches us that genuine worship isn't measured by worldly standards but by the sincerity of the heart, and the divine approval it garners.

In stark contrast, Judas's critique was rooted in greed and spiritual blindness. He evaluated everything through the lens of monetary value, utterly ignoring or failing to comprehend the spiritual riches that Jesus embodied. The tragedy is that Judas knew the cost of the ointment, but he was blind to the value of the One he betrayed. This tragedy is not just Judas's alone; it reflects a dangerous attitude prevalent among many today—valuing material possessions, status, or wealth over spiritual truth and divine fellowship. The tragic neglect of recognizing Jesus' true worth among many believers continues to undermine authentic faith and worship.

Furthermore, Jesus' statement that she anointed Him “for His burial” (Mark 14:8-9, KJV)—“Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her” —suggests a profound spiritual truth. It indicates that her act was not merely an act of love but also a prophetic act revealing her understanding of His coming death and resurrection. She was among the few who truly understood the significance of Jesus' impending sacrifice, and her act bore witness to her faith in His death, burial, and glorious resurrection. She was, in effect, preaching the gospel in her own way—bearing witness through her act of worship that Jesus would die to save humanity, then rise victorious.

This insight prompts us to reflect: Do we truly believe the words of the prophets? Do we recognize Jesus' death and resurrection as central to our faith? Her faith was so deep that she prepared Jesus for burial long before His crucifixion. That act of pouring ointment upon His head was her declaration of trust in His divine plan. In a similar way, our acts of worship and sacrifice can serve as signs of our deep trust in the Lord's promises. After His death, women who loved Jesus went to anoint His body—Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of

James, and Salome (Mark 16:1, KJV). They carried expensive spices and ointments, expecting to anoint a body covered in grief and loss. But this woman, who anointed Jesus before His death, was ahead of her time—she believed in the promise of resurrection. Her faith and worship were an act of prophetic foresight, an anticipation of the triumph that would follow the suffering. Her act, her worship, was a testimony not only of love but also of her deep spiritual discernment.

The lesson emerging from her story is that true worship demands sacrificial love and unwavering faith. It may seem radical or even foolish in the eyes of the world—just as David’s sling and stones seemed insignificant to armies or Goliath himself but became weapons of divine victory. When we honor Jesus in a genuine, heartfelt way, regardless of what others say or think, we align ourselves with divine purpose. Her act of pouring ointment was an act of divine defiance against superficial values; it was an act of spiritual rebellion that honored God’s Word and divine destiny.

The critical point then becomes: what is your “alabaster box” today? What are you willing to sacrifice or pour out to honor Jesus? What is your “sling and stone,” your unconventional weapon of worship and faith? David’s sling was not just a tool but a symbol of faith—the belief that God can use the seemingly insignificant for divine victory. Our personal acts of devotion—whether through prayer, service, sacrifice, or worship—are no less important. These acts, like the woman’s ointment and David’s sling, are prophetic signs of faith and trust in Christ’s sovereignty.

The act of honoring Jesus directly is essential because sometimes, waiting for permission can cause us to miss divine opportunities. Her act was spontaneous—she did not wait for approval to anoint her Messiah. She took her worship directly to Jesus, trusting that her act was acceptable in His sight. Her love and faith were her alabaster box, her sling and stone—her unique weapons to demonstrate her devotion. Just as David boldly took out his sling and stones to face Goliath, sometimes we must step out in faith and give Jesus our best without hesitation or permission from others. Our worship must be fearless, authentic, and undaunted by the criticism or doubts of men. When we truly understand the worth of Jesus, we are unshakable—immune to the ridicule or rejection of society because our focus remains fixed on Him alone.

This woman’s story demonstrates that divine approval surpasses all worldly approval. While the religious elite, the disciples, and even Judas condemned her act as wasteful, Jesus

declared it a “good work” and a memorial for all generations. In the eyes of Jesus, her sacrifice was worth more than worldly riches. Her faith was so profound that her act became part of the gospel, preached wherever the good news is proclaimed. It is a reminder that our acts of genuine devotion, however unconventional or misunderstood, are valuable in God’s sight and can leave a lasting spiritual legacy.

Her devotion teaches us that when we prioritize honoring Jesus directly—whether through our sacrifices, acts of love, or worship—we align ourselves with divine purpose. Sometimes, even our loved ones and church leaders might not understand what we are doing or why we are doing it. But as Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV) instructs, “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Our obedience to God’s calling, even in the face of misunderstanding, is what truly matters.

Let us also reflect on David’s fearless faith when he faced Goliath—everyone believed he was misguided, yet he knew his God was greater than any giant. “And David said to Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God” (1 Samuel 17:34-36, KJV). His faith in God gave him power beyond human comprehension. Just as David’s sling saved Israel, your faith and acts of devotion can become divine weapons—your sling and stone—that confront and defeat the enemy.

Our acts of worship, faith, and sacrifice are not just personal expressions—they are prophetic declarations of God’s sovereignty and His eternal plan. The woman’s alabaster box, David’s sling, and stones—all symbolize trust in God’s divine provision and power. When you pour out your best to Jesus, whether through sacrifice, acts of service, or prophetic worship, you participate in divine victory. The divine response to genuine worship is always approval—Jesus’ “Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me” (Mark 14:6, KJV) echoes across eternity, affirming that total devotion to Jesus is never wasted or forgotten.

In conclusion, her story compels us to examine what we are willing to pour out at the feet of Jesus. Are we holding back, or are we truly giving our best? Are we waiting for

permission, or are we boldly stepping forward in faith? Do we understand the eternal value of worship, sacrifice, and unwavering devotion to the Savior? Her example encourages us to forget mediocrity and to embrace faith-filled acts of love that please Jesus. When we recognize His worth, we will be unshaken by worldly criticism because our focus is fixed on divine approval. May each of us learn to hold nothing back—pour out our alabaster boxes, sling our stones of faith, and honor Jesus with all our heart, soul, and strength. For when we do, we walk in divine approval, leaving a legacy that proclaims His worth to all generations.