Love Poured Out

I. Slide#1 Announce:
   A. Slide#2 Children at Risk - Discussing WRAP & JM3.
   B. Slide#3,4 A Tribute to Chuck Smith - Next Sun 5-8pm @ Honda Center Anaheim (formerly the Pond).
      1. OR, We will be having a live stream here in our sanctuary 5-8pm.
   C. Slide#5 Matt Pritchett dir. Camp Alandale - A Christian camp in Idyllwild for abused children
   D. Slide#6 Prayer: John R.W. Stott once admitted the truth that many of us have felt but failed to confess: "The thing I know will give me the deepest joy - namely, to be alone and unhurried in the presence of God, aware of His presence, my heart open to worship Him - is often the thing I least want to do."

II. Slide#7 Intro:
   A. Title: Love Poured Out
   B. Here we have once again Jesus giving us one of His high contrast stories.
      1. Slide#8 The best way to see the effect of contrast is by examining a b/w photo. In fact, b/w images are pretty blah without a good amount of contrast. It's the contrast between the subject & the background that makes the subject stand out. The eye is naturally drawn to light.
   C. Outline: Oyster Shells & The Pearl
   D. Here we have a Pearl placed in between 2 ugly shells.
      1. Let’s deal with the 2 ugly shells first.

III. Slide#9 OYSTER SHELLS (1,2; 10,11)
   A. Slide#10a PLOT #1, by the chief priests (1,2) [bivalve, oyster on the half shell]
   B. They were afraid to do it at the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people.
      1. Jesus was surrounded by 1000’s of Galilean pilgrims who would take his side.
   C. Slide#10b PLOT #2, by Judas (10,11)
   D. Perhaps he was still angry at the possible loss of money (4,5).
      1. How sad it all came down to this…they promised to give him money.
      2. Congratulations Judas, you helped them solve their problem of how to arrest Him w/o causing a riot during the feast.
   E. How do you conveniently betray the Son of God?
      1. Is it not a costly endeavor in every way? www pg.664
      2. Here is the basest act of treachery in history.
F. Though Judas shared Jesus’ company, he never shared His Spirit.

IV. Slide#11 THE PEARL (3-9)
A. Same story as Mt.26:6-13 & Jn.12:2-8
   1. Not same as Lk.7:36-50 (she was a sinner/harlot; at Simon the Pharisees house)
   2. This Mary, was Mary of Bethany. Sister of Martha & Lazarus.
      a) John told us they all were at this feast. What wonderful table conversations, because Lazarus was already raised from the dead.

B. Slide#12 MARY’S MAGNIFICAT (3) [magnify]
C. Simon the Leper – We don’t know anything about.
   1. Probably a leper healed earlier by Jesus.

D. Jesus sat/reclined at the table –
   1. Feet anointed in John & Mark. - Head in Matt. [explain sitting posture]

E. Slide#13 Alabaster flask – it resembled white marble.
   1. This substance, the Oriental alabaster of the Ancient Egyptians & Bible times came from the Far East. It was highly esteemed for making small perfume bottles called alabastra.
   2. Usually sealed so well for shipping you had to break the very delicate neck of the small flask to open it.
      a) Perhaps an expression of the wholeheartedness of her devotion.
   3. Eastern custom was that if a vessel was used to serve a distinguished guest it should then be destroyed in order that it was never used for anybody of lesser importance.
   4. Slide#14 Remember Brylcreem? (hairstyling gel 60’s - Their jingle was a little dab’ll do ya)
      I wonder if we take that same philosophy into our worship of Jesus? [lil dab or whole flask?]
      a) Do we use our worship sparingly? [or lavishly]

F. Slide#15a Oil of spikenard – or, perfume of pure nard.
   1. An aromatic herb (from the roots/stems) native to N. India. [Grown in Himalayan mnt’s]
   2. Slide#15b SoS 1:12 While the king is at his table, My spikenard sends forth its fragrance.
      a) What perfume do you give off at His table? In His world?

G. Very costly – 300 denarii (i.e. a years wage)
   1. What do you make in a year? (put that price on it for our lesson this morning)
   2. Was it a family heirloom? Was it her dowry?
   3. Slide#16 This was an Extravagant Love. It’s Crazy Love. Enamored. Smitten. Passionate.
      a) In which way have you shown Extravagant love to the Lord?
b) What have you done in your Christianity where friends/family said...ok, that’s taking this Christianity thing a little too far!

c) You might think...but I’m fresh out of Alabaster flasks! Well, we can all give Him the best of our love, years (in our freshness/vigor, strength, manhood/womanhood), & talents. Like Miss Havergal’s beautiful consecration hymn.

d) Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
   Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
   Take my hands, and let them move At the impulse of Thy love.
   Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.
   Take my voice, and let me sing, Always, only, for my King.
   Take my lips, and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.
   Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold.
   Take my intellect, and use Every power as Thou shalt choose.
   Take my will, and make it Thine; It shall be no longer mine.
   Take my heart, it is Thine own; It shall be Thy royal throne.
   Take my love; my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure-store.
   Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

H. Slide#17 DISCIPLES DISTURBING DIGS (4,5)

I. Slide#18a All of the disciples seem to have a part in this, but John (12:4) lets us know it was Judas who was the ring leader/main complainer in this.

   1. In Jn.12:6 This he said(Judas), not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

          a) So Judas, w/calculator in hand, knew the price of everything & the value of nothing.¹

J. Slide#18b,c Indignant/angry. Criticized/scolded her sharply [to snort, an expression of anger & displeasure, to warn sternly] LKGNT

   1. They snorted like angry horses.

   2. I wonder how many x’s I’ve snorted at someone else’s gift to the Lord? Forgive me Lord

K. Slide#18d Wasted? (apoleia) – Interesting, this same word is translated perdition in Jn.17:12 & applied to Judas, none of them is lost except the son of perdition.

   1. Judas criticized Mary for wasting money, but he wasted his entire life.

L. Slide#19blank Have you ever thought someone went over the top in their giving?

   1. Is it possible to give too much to Jesus?

   2. What is the most important thing you could give Him?

M. Did their minds get too occupied w/the work of the kingdom that they lost sight of the King?

   1. Was the ministry becoming a business to be budgeted rather than a Savior to be served?

¹ Kent Hughes, Mark, pg.146.
N. Mary’s act of worship brought joy to the heart of Jesus & malice to the heart of Judas.

Q. Slide#20 JESUS RESPONSE (6-9)
P. Jesus is quick to her defense & steps in between her & her attackers.

1. Slide#21 Rom.8:33,34 Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

2. No matter what others say about our worship & service, the most important thing is that we please the Lord.
   a) Our concern is His approval alone.

Q. Slide#22 She has done a good work for me – (NIV) She has done a beautiful thing to me.

1. Johns account also adds, And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. 12:3
   a) There’s always a spiritual fragrance in that home where J.C. is loved & worshiped.

2. Ken Gire writes in his book, Intimate Moment’s pg.83. On the cross, stripped of His clothing, Jesus would wear only the perfume that Mary had lavished upon his hair. It was that perfume which filled his nostrils & covered the stench of mockers rabbled around the cross… Slide#23 The Savior had come to earth to break an alabaster jar for humanity. And Mary had come that night to break one for Him. It was a jar He never regretted breaking. Nor did she. [our title: Love Poured Out]

R. Slide#24 Other women came to anoint Him after His burial (16:1); but Mary did it when He could be encouraged by her love.

1. Too many men have felt the grief…that they waited until their wife’s funeral to send them flowers. :( 

2. What a simple token of love to send someone flowers this week…just because. (Don’t tell them that this is instead of sending them to their funeral!)

S. What’s been the greatest gift come your way?

1. Slide#25 Micals as a toddler bringing me dandelions [A beautiful gift comes from a beautiful heart]

2. I bet Jesus has a lot of strange things in His treasury: “widow’s pennies, cups of water, broken alabaster vases, dandelions.”

3. Has He anything of yours in His Treasury?

T. (7) Was Jesus implying a lack of concern for the poor? Of course not.

U. Slide#26 (8) She has done what she could - Fanny Crosby put on her tomb stone.

1. Blind (6 weeks old, she caught cold & developed inflammation of the eyes). 8,000 + hymns.

V. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial - anyone who faces a criminal’s death faces the threat of being cast into a criminal’s grave w/o anointing, w/o proper burial.
W. (9) Gospel + this story - what a story!

X. Slide#27
   What a contrast: the treachery of Judas & the leaders (shells); w/the love & loyalty of Mary (pearl).
   1. The ugliness of their sins makes the beauty of her sacrifice even more meaningful.
   2. Mary was...a blessing to Jesus as she shared her love;
      A blessing to her home, as it filled the whole house w/its fragrance;
      A blessing to her despisers as it would have blest their nostrils;
      To her village as Bethany is recorded for ever as the village in which this took place;
      And to the whole world...and still is. www pg.134 Be Diligent

Y. Slide#28blank
   Prayer: Lord, teach us when to sell the perfume for the poor, & when to shower it on You Lord.
   1. Help not to cling to any Alabaster jar of my own.
      Help me to lavish You not only w/my treasures but also w/my tears.