

## 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.
- 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.
    - So Judas, w/calculator in hand, knew **the price** of *everything* & **the value of nothing**.<sup>1</sup>
- J. Slide#18b,c Indignant/angry. Criticized/scolded her sharply [to snort, an expression of anger & displeasure, to warn sternly] LKGNT
- They snorted like angry horses.
  - 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**.
- 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?
- Is it possible to give **too much** to Jesus?
  - 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**?
- Was the ministry becoming a business to be budgeted **rather than a Savior to be served**?

<sup>1</sup> Kent Hughes, Mark, pg. 146.

- N. Mary's **act of worship** brought **joy** to the heart of **Jesus** & **malice** to the heart of **Judas**.
- O. **Slide#20 JESUS RESPONSE** (6-9)
- P. Jesus is **quick to her defense** & steps in between her & her attackers.
- 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**
  - No matter what others say about our worship & service, the most important thing is that *we please the Lord*.**
    - 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.**
- John's account also adds, **And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.** 12:3
    - There's always a **spiritual fragrance** in that home where J.C. is **loved & worshiped**.
  - Ken Gire** writes in his book, *Intimate Moments*'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 rabbed 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.**
- Too many men have felt the grief...that they waited until their wife's funeral to send them flowers. :(
  - 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?**
- Slide#25** **Micals as a toddler bringing me dandelions** [A beautiful gift comes from a beautiful heart]
  - I bet Jesus has a lot of **strange things** in His treasury: **"widow's pennies, cups of water, broken alabaster vases, dandelions."**
  - 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.
- 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**.