

Love Poured Out

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Baby Dedication 3rd: Alex & Anca Popa. Natalie Alexandra (bro Andrew).
- B. Slide3-7 Larry: TY VBS. REAL Tues. YAMS. Married Couples Retreat. Beebe Fundraiser.
- C. Slide8 Children at Risk: Movie *Shattered Dream*; Sex Trafficking in America at 3pm.
 Good reasons to come: Further educate yourself on how trafficking looks domestically. Support awareness projects that others are doing. Support our local friend *Marjorie*. An opportunity to *invite someone* that doesn't know much about HT. Perhaps learn additional ways to *join the fight*. [*Palamar College Television*]
 1. It sheds light on the complex nature of sex trafficking in hopes of dispelling misconceptions. Like being considered the world's **oldest profession** is really actually **a disturbing crime happening in plain sight**, perpetually stigmatized and misunderstood.
- D. Slide9 This Wed Night: This Wed eve we will have a *special guest speaker* from Vietnam, Pastor Steve joined by Jeff Thompson. Pastor Steve was a Colonel in the *So Vietnamese army*. When the war was over, **he chose to stay in his country instead of immigrating to the USA**. He knew they would need pastors and church leaders. As a result, he spent 8 years in prison - 3 different times he was arrested and imprisoned. Today, Pastor Steve leads a *house church planting movement in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia with well over 500 churches planted*. They are also sending village pastors to the remote mountain regions to share the gospel **with the Hani people**. *I think you'll enjoy this Wed night service.*
- E. Dan/I leave tonight 9 days to Nepal. I took 2 vacations(Alaska & Beachhouse), **but we needed it**.

II. Slide10 Intro: Love Poured Out

- A. Last week: we witnessed the beautiful interchange between Jesus & Martha & Mary. Dealing with the death (then raising) of their brother Lazarus. [village of Mary,2 & he loved Martha,5]
- B. Outline: Hating (11:45-57) & Celebrating (12:1-11).

III. Slide11a HATING (11:45-57)

- A. **Slide11b PROBLEM** (45-48) - They cared more about their *political status & power on earth* than they did about whether Jesus really was sent by God. [they were simply trying to save their *political-skins*]
- B. They feared that Jesus *might get such a following* that **even Rome would feel threatened**.
- C. **PROPHECY** (49-52) - **Caiaphas** proposes, a simple lethal solution, *Why should the whole nation be destroyed? Let this one man die for the people*. [He didn't realize how correct he was]
1. **Admire the bee**: It sees its hive being threatened, it will use its one defense... **Its stinger**. **They will die in their defense of their hive**. They have 1 thought only ...the safety of the **others** in the hive, & will gladly **give their lives** for the good of the many.
- D. **PLOT** (53-57) - From now on **Jesus & the Sanhedrin** were on *a collision course*.
1. From this time on **Jesus alters His course**:
 - a) He changes His **public outreach** to a **private in-reach**.
 - b) He shifts His emphasis from **signs to quiet intimate conversation** w/His disciples.
 - c) He **reduces His travels** & returns to Jerusalem & stays there.
 - d) *He's not out evangelizing, He's preparing to leave & preparing the disciples for His departure*.
- E. The timing of His laying down of His life is still *in His hands*.
1. Jesus heads to Ephraim, **12-15 miles away from the city**, *until* Passover.
 2. As Passover nears, the **Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world** begins to make His final preparations **before** He lays down His life & takes it up again.
- F. **Finally**, they have an APB (All Points Bulletin) out on Jesus.

IV. **Slide12a CELEBRATING (12:1-11)**

- A. **Don't miss it**. This is a **thank you dinner** to Jesus for raising Lazarus from the dead. **This is a party**. This is a resurrection party. Listen, u can hear: *Cel-e-brate-good-times, come on!*

1. Slide12b *Kool and the Gang* sang, *There's a party goin' on right here. A celebration to last throughout the years. So bring your good times and your laughter too. We gonna celebrate your party with you.* (1980)
2. Did you know...the initial idea for this song came from the **Koran**, *where God was creating Adam, and the angels were celebrating and singing praise.*¹

B. Slide13a MARY'S DEVOTION

C. What would your plans be if you knew you only had 6 days to live? You would choose *what is most important to you*. Jesus choose, *I'm going over my friends for dinner & fellowshiping with them.*

1. He chose to spend His final week w/His closest friends.
2. Slide13b **Parallel passages**: Same story as Mt.26; Mark14. **Not** same as Lk.7. She was a sinner/harlot. At diff home Simon the Pharisees house.
3. **Included on the guest list** (from Mt/Mrk) **was Simon** (a leper Jesus healed. actually he's hosting this party at his house, in Bethany). **Lazarus, Mary, Martha.** And **the disciples**.
 - a) What wonderful **table conversations**, *especially* cuz **Lazarus was already raised from the dead**.
4. **Note**: 1st time **Mary's** name is mentioned in these stories (not in Mt/Mrk), probably because the whole family *might have suffered* for their intimate identification w/Jesus, **but now** the beloved trio had been gathered home to God *when John is writing*.

D. **He/Jesus sat or reclined** at the table (Mk.14:3)

1. **Feet** anointed in John & Mark. **Head** in Matt. [explain sitting posture]

E. **Alabaster flask** (Mk) – 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.

¹ Ronald Bell (Sax & musical arranger) while reading the Koran inspired him to write, *Everyone around the world, come on, celebration*.

- a) Perhaps an expression of the **wholeheartedness** of her devotion.
- F. I wonder if we take that same philosophy into **our worship** of Jesus? [lil dab *or* whole flask?]
1. Do we use our worship sparingly? [*or* lavishly]
- G. Slide14 This **pure nard**, aka *spikenard*, *muskroot* was an oil or perfume, made from a **root** & likely **was imported from Nepal** [Himalayan Mnt's] the nearest major source of the product at the time
1. 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?
- H. Slide15a **Very costly** – 300 denarii (eg. a years wage, in CA \$12 min wage, \$25,000)
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. **This was** an Extravagant Love. It's Crazy Love. *Enamored. Smitten. Passionate. Breath taking generosity.* [it wasn't a worship that was just *trying to get by*]
 - a) In which way have **you** shown *Extravagant love* to the Lord?
 - b) It's when friends/family say...*ok, that's taking this Christianity thing a little too far.*
 4. You might think...**but** I'm fresh out of *Alabaster flasks!* Well, we can all give Him the best of our **love**, best of our **years** (in our vigor, strength, in our prime) & best of our **talents**.
- I. Slide15b (7) **So** Judas w/calculator in hand **knew the price** of *everything* & **the value of nothing**.² Judas words, **if** they **infect** Mary with his *selfish disease*, could keep something from happening. *Judas, back off. Leave her alone*...let her get on with what she is doing, or including at my burial.
1. Let her keep **it** all the way to the day of my burial. The ointment has been poured out, that's **not** what she is keeping. **Jesus wants her to keep her thrill, her gratitude, her amazement, her wonder, her love.** And specifically **her amazement and wonder and love for him as the resurrection & the life.** Piper
 2. **You be silent, Judas**, and let her keep that same **love** and **hope** when she stands by my grave in 6 days.
 - a) If any voice tells you to **moderate** your love for Jesus, **do not** listen.

² Kent Hughes, Mark, pg.146.

3. Judas criticized Mary for **wasting money**, **but he wasted his entire life**.
- J. Jesus is **quick to her defense** & steps in between her *and* her attackers.
1. **Slide16** 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. **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**.³
- K. Other women came to anoint Him **after** His burial; **but** Mary did it **when** He could be encouraged by her love. [**break out your best perfume for the living**]
- L. **So we learn**: Worship **costs** us something. Worship is often **misunderstood**. Worship can be **embarrassing**. Worship is **Never waste**. Worship is **defended** by Jesus. Worship is **a good work**. Worship is **for Him alone**. Worship is **aromatic** (changing a former *lepers home* into a temple).
1. **You can never waste something, when you pour it out, in worship of the One with limitless value.** Let me encourage us to...*Break The Box of your life...for Him!*
- M. **Slide17 IT'S A RESURRECTION PARTY**. Mary shows up **3 times** in Scripture and she's **always at the feet of Jesus**: **When** Jesus was teaching, she fell at his feet **to learn**. **When** her life was falling apart, she fell at his feet **to be healed**. On this day, **When** God moved marvelously in her family, she fell at his feet **to say thank you**.⁴
1. But didn't just **say** thank you, she had something in her hands to **SHOW** she was **thankful**, something she intended to **give** to Jesus. **Why?** Because *Love Always Gives*.
 - a) You can **give** without **loving**, **but** you can't **love** without **giving**.
 2. Whatever you **love** you **give** towards. Any passion in your heart, there will be a financial trail that leads to that thing.

³ Intimate Moment's, Ken Gire, pg.83

⁴ Taken from a message by Levi Lusko

- a) **eg.** you can post all the little inspiring Memes on your **FB** page that you found on **Pinterest** and say, *that's how you **show** that God's in your heart.* I'd say, *show me your **Amazon account** and I'll show you what you're really **passionate** about.*
When you care about something, *money flows towards your passion.*
- b) *Where your **treasure** is there your **heart** will be also. For God so loved the world that he said, I love you. No, that he **gave**.* Love always gives.

N. **Slide18a Mary Gave What She Could.** What did she give, 1 pound of spikenard.

(luckily, Judas criticized her gift, so we would know how much it cost).

1. **Judas you think you should give to the poor?** Then do it, because the poor are always with you. **But** don't micromanage what I touched her heart to do. She did what she could. **Are you doing what you can do?**

O. **Slide18b Mary Gave While She Could.** How many days before Passover was this gift given? 6 days. What if Mary said, *Jesus really touched my heart, He comes through this time of year, let's give him a party next year.* Or even next week.

1. **The right time to do the right thing is right now.** You must work the works of him who sent you while it is day, the night is coming when no one can work.
2. Think about this Jesus's body almost went into the tomb **not-anointed**. Joseph & Nicodemus prepare the body hastily to get it in the tomb. His body should've been anointed on Sun morn, **but** he had been resurrected.
3. **Don't wait to be generous with Jesus.** *If I win a million dollars, I'll give 10% to the church/poor...*no you wont. You will be the same person, either **generous** or **stingy** whether you have 10,000 or 10 million. You don't 1 day become generous.

a) **Slide18c Derek Carr**, in 2017 became the highest paid QB per year in NFL history. \$125 million contract. This QB for *Oakland Raiders* was interviewed and ask, *What are you going to do with this payday?* He said this, *"First thing I will do is pay my tithe like I have since I was in college, getting \$700 on a scholarship check. That won't change I'll do that."*

b) You don't just tithe on \$125 million one day. **See romance and generosity work on any budget.** Kelly and I were just on a cruise ship in Alaska eating steak and

lobsters for our 36th. But our romance *began* at late night Denny's & eating strips at HB, not on the cruise ship. [Romance works on any budget. Generosity works...]

- P. Slide18d **Mary Received More Than She Gave**. Isn't our God so good to always do that?
1. With God you always **receive** more than you **give**. But that shouldn't be **why** we give.
 2. The proper motivation is ***we give because we already received***. Any giving that you have done is **responding** not **initiating**.
 3. Mary gave a gift, and she received even more back than she gave. She receive back **3 things**:
 - a) **First**, she got to be part of the story. Matthew 26:13 *wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her*. How do you feel CM, to be 2000 years away and we're fulfilling this prophecy today, *as we tell her story*.
 - b) **Secondly**, she received back exactly what she gave. What did she give? perfume. And she wiped it up with her hair. She gave, well that perfumes gone, but now walking away, (*sniff sniff*) what's that? it absorbed into her hair. That same gift she gave is **with her and anointing her** as well.
 - c) **Thirdly**, she received the memory of this moment. She would never be able to forget this memory because smell and memory are connected. *That's why when we smell something it can bring you back like few other things can*. How do you think Mary felt the rest of her life when ever she smelt spikenard? **It would take her back to the feet of Jesus**.
- Q. There was another woman who did a similar thing in Lk7, except that she was **a sinful woman**. She would use the perfume to attract customers. She would associate the smell of the perfume with men **using her and giving her body away**. She broke that bottle, when she broke away from that old life, and now broke it at the feet of Jesus. And for the rest of her life, where she would ordinarily have smelled that perfume and thought of her **shame**, she now smelled it and thought of **her Savior**.
1. **No matter who you are, where you've been, bring your life to the feet of the Savior**. You don't have to walk around **smelling reminders** of the past sin & shame, **Instead you can smell victory**. **Smell the smell of love**. **The smell of**

your Great God. *Cel-e-brate-good-times, come on!*

R. So, as **Mary** was *preparing Jesus' body* for burial, **Judas** will *prepare His death*.

1. I don't want a *dead* faith. I want a **living** faith. I want a **perfumed** faith; I want a faith that **smells good**. I want a faith that **helps others**; I want a faith that **changes my world**. I want a faith that: **cares for, feeds, shares resources, helps**.
2. *An intentional, active, dynamic, calculated, conscious, deliberate, purposeful, celebratory faith*.