



The Gospel of Matthew

“Extravagant Devotion”

Matthew 26:1-16

And it came about when Jesus had finished all these words, He said to His disciples,

“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be delivered up for crucifixion.”

Matthew 26:1-2

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas;

and they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth, and kill Him.

But they were saying, “Not during the festival, lest a riot occur among the people.” (v3-5)

Now when Jesus was in Bethany, at the home of Simon the leper,

a woman came to Him with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume, and she poured it upon His head as He reclined at the table.

But the disciples were indignant when they saw this, and said, “Why this waste?

For this perfume might have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor.”

But Jesus aware of this, said to them, “Why do you bother the woman? For she has done a good deed to Me.”

“For the poor you have with you always; but you do not always have Me.

For when she poured this perfume upon My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial.

Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done shall also be spoken of in memory of her.” (v6-13)

Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests,

and said, “What are you willing to give me to deliver Him up to you?” And they weighed out to him thirty pieces of silver.

And from then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Him. (v14-16)



Matthew 26:3-16

Preparations for His Death

1. The Jewish leaders plot to kill Him
 - their actions will be according to God's plan
 - they display a morally bankrupt expediency



Matthew 26:3-16

Preparations for His Death

2. The woman anoints Him for burial
 - she displays an extravagant devotion



Matthew 26:3-16

Preparations for His Death

3. Judas plots to betray Him
 - he displays a self-centered hypocrisy and a false faith



Extravagant Devotion

1. Imitate the woman's devotion
 - an unembarrassed devotion
 - an uncalculating devotion

Nothing is a waste when spent for the sake of Christ



Extravagant Devotion

2. Grasp what is essential – Jesus!
 - the woman expressed her understanding of the surpassing value of Christ
 - devotion to Jesus must precede and be the overflow for acts of piety



Extravagant Devotion

3. Value the Cross of Christ
 - this anointing is an affirmation of the value of Jesus' death from the viewpoint of faith
 - the woman's act will be an ongoing pointer to the surpassing value of Christ in His death