

## The Woman We Can't Forget

Matthew 26:6–13

### A. Introduction

1. As Jesus moves toward Jerusalem, He stops in the village of Bethany.
2. The shadow of the Cross looms large, two days before the Passover. (Matt 26:2)
3. The betrayal, the arrest, the trials, the mocking, & the crucifixion lie just ahead.
4. The agony of Calvary is still to be experienced.
5. Yet before all this, there is a quiet supper in the home of Simon the leper.
6. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were also guests (John 12:1-2)
7. Mary performed a profound act of devotion that caught everyone's attention.
8. Jesus declared that wherever the gospel is preached, she will be remembered.
9. Mary gained a place in history.
10. History forgets emperors. Time erases monuments.
11. But heaven preserves the name of this woman.
12. She is, truly, the woman we can't forget. Why?

### B. She Didn't Let Others Keep Her from Coming to Christ (v. 7)

1. Matthew doesn't even record the woman's name here—just her action. She came.
2. There were real obstacles that could have kept her away:
  - a. She risked leaving the serving to Martha again.
  - b. She may have felt she was interrupting an intimate meal.
  - c. She could have feared the opinions of others in the room.
3. Culturally, for a woman to interrupt a formal dinner gathering was socially bold.
4. It was even deemed unacceptable. Yet love gave her courage.
5. Many people will miss heaven because of other people.
6. Every day they allow others to keep them from Christ:
7. But salvation is not determined by other people.
8. It is determined by what we do with Jesus.
9. Hypocrites will not stand beside you at judgment.
10. Offended feelings will not excuse unbelief.
11. Mary overcame every social barrier and came directly to Christ.
12. The first step in any meaningful relationship with Jesus is simple: come to Him.
13. No excuses. No delay. No fear of man.

### C. She Didn't Put Limits On Her Dedication (v. 7)

1. She brought "*an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume*"
2. This was not a casual gift. It was costly. It was a precious thing.
3. It was worth nearly a year's wages according to John's account.
4. It may have represented her savings, her security, even her future. Her dowry.
5. Yet she broke it and poured it upon Him.
6. Think of the language Scripture uses about what Christ has given us:
  - a. His "precious blood" (1 Peter 1:19).
  - b. His "precious promises" (2 Peter 1:4).
7. Jesus never gave us leftovers. He gave His life.

8. Throughout Hebrews 11, the heroes of faith are marked by total surrender.
9. They held nothing back.
10. But we often set limits on our devotion:
  - a. “Lord, I’ll give You Sunday—but not my ambitions.”
  - b. “I’ll serve—but not sacrificially.”
  - c. “I’ll follow—so long as it doesn’t cost too much.”
11. Mary teaches us that true worship is extravagant.
12. It is not measured by convenience but by love.
13. Is there an area of your life you withholding from Christ? Refuse to surrender?
14. What limits are you placing on your dedication to Him?
15. Are you afraid that full devotion will cost too much?
16. Mary shows us that nothing poured out for Jesus is ever wasted.

**D. She Didn’t Listen to the Criticism of Her Care for Christ (vv. 8–9)**

1. John tells us that criticism erupted, originating from Judas (John 12:4–6).
2. His argument sounded spiritual. It sounded compassionate. But it was hollow.
3. Scripture reveals he did not care for the poor—he cared for the money.
4. Criticism disguises itself as wisdom, claims to be practical, & have noble motives.
5. And criticism spreads. One voice can infect a room.
6. If you love Christ & serve Him totally, someone will question your motives.
7. If you give sacrificially, it will be called excessive, & you will be misunderstood.
8. But Jesus defended Mary. When you serve Christ, trust Him to vindicate you.
9. Tune out the critics. Stay focused on Him.

**E. What Did Mary’s Gift Have to Do with the Gospel? (v. 12)**

1. Jesus said, “She did it for my burial.”
2. Whether Mary fully understood or not, her act was prophetic.
3. She believed what others resisted: that Jesus was going to die.
4. Just two days earlier, He had plainly declared His coming crucifixion (Matt 26:2).
5. While some argue about greatness & resist the idea of suffering, Mary worships.
6. Her anointing of Jesus acknowledged the Cross before it happened.
7. She gave all of what she had because she believed.

**F. The Lasting Memorial**

1. Jesus made an astonishing promise in v13.
2. Empires have risen and fallen. Kingdoms have come and gone.
3. Yet every time the Gospel is preached, her story lives again. Why?
4. Because heaven never forgets what is done for Christ.
5. The greatest gift we can give our Lord today is not perfume—it is proclamation.
6. To share the Gospel, to live in bold devotion, to pour out our lives for Him.
7. That is worship that echoes into eternity.
8. Mary shows us to come to Christ & hold nothing back in dedication & worship.
9. Ignore the critics and fix your eyes on Him.
10. Be the kind of believer heaven refuses to forget.