

Recap of 4/28/24 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 14:1-11):

1. The main idea of Mark 14:1-11 is to ask ourselves: "Is Jesus Christ central in my life, does He get my best or just my leftovers. Is He only peripheral to all the other things (even good things) in my life?" As the Psalmist asks in Psalm 116:12 NLT, "What can I offer the Lord for all He has done for me? The passage contrasts the loving devotion of Mary of Bethany with the hatred of the religious leaders and the betrayal of Judas. Mary is an example for us of the right response to Jesus.

2. Mary offered Jesus the most valuable thing she owned, the aromatic oil with which she anointed Him for His burial. A costly gift representing a year's wages, or a lifetime of saving,

- "Mary's action in anointing Christ for His burial suggests that she truly understood something of the nature of His death and even His resurrection. The others had probably heard the same truths that she listened to as she sat at the feet of Jesus, and with here they had witnessed the raising from the dead of her brother Lazarus. They had heard and seen but they had not understood."

-If a man devotes his time, money, and affections to the pursuit of worldly things, they do not blame him. If he gives himself up to the service of money, pleasure, or politics, they find no fault. But if the same man devotes himself, and all he had, to Christ, they can scarcely find worlds to express their sense of his folly. In short, they regard it as a waste." (Ryle)

- "Christians who tend to be very measured in their giving or in their service need this example from the life of Mary. Our Lord, because of who He is and what He has done, deserves more than token amounts and empty gestures. He is worthy of our most lavish gifts. We cannot thank Him or love Him or serve Him or honor Him too much. Give God your best efforts and your most precious hours today." (Life Lessons)

- "I am progressing along the path of life in my ordinary contentedly fallen and godless condition, absorbed in a merry meeting with my friends for the morrow or a bit of work that tickles my vanity today, a holiday or a new book, when suddenly a stab of abdominal pain that threatens serious disease, or a headline in the newspapers that threatens us all with destruction, sends this whole pack of cards tumbling down. At first, I am overwhelmed, and all my little happiness looks like broken toys. Then, slowly, and reluctantly, bit by bit, I try to bring myself into the frame of mind that I should be in at all times. I remind myself that all these toys were never intended to possess my heart, that my true good is in another world, and my only real treasure is Christ." (C.S. Lewis)