

“Sweet Devotion”

(Mark 14:1-10)

Big Idea: A grateful heart inspires a life of worship.

³ *And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. There were some who said to themselves indignantly, “Why was the ointment wasted like that?”* ⁵ *For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.”*

⁶ *But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.”* ⁷ *For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me.* ⁸ *She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial.* ⁹ *And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.”*

Mary’s sweet act of devotion was

A beautiful thing

Prompted by the Holy Spirit.

She has done what she could.

“Complete sacrifice is the only adequate expression for a life that has been redeemed by God” (R. Kent Hughes)

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Rom. 12:1 NLT

She anointed my body beforehand for burial.

Big Idea: A grateful heart inspires a life of worship.

Application

Do we have a grateful heart?

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else. (Eph. 2:1-3 NLT).

What could a life of worship look like?

Worship flows from the heart!

Worship is all of my life!

Worship is the full commitment of one's life to God. But we have made our work the primary dimension of our lives, so it is little wonder that we experience worship as little more than an occasional pious exercise.... We worship our work. We work at our play. And we play at our worship.
(Gordon Dahl)

Worship is “all in”!

For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. II Cor 5:14-15 NASB

Would you characterize your life as a life of worship?

Take Away

What stands out to you from Mary’s example of worship?

Why do you think her devotion was pleasing to Jesus?

What could “sweet devotion” look like for you? What holds you back, how can others help you?

What is one thing you could you do this week to demonstrate your gratitude to Jesus?