

SHE HATH DONE WHAT SHE COULD

MARK 14:1-9

Text:

Introduction:

A Christian businessman was traveling in Korea. In a field by the side of the road was a young man pulling a rude plow while an old man held the handles. The businessman was amused and took a snapshot of the scene.

I suppose these people are very poor,' he said to the missionary who was interpreter and guide to the party.

Yes. When their church was being built, they were eager to give something toward it, but they had no money. So they decided to sell their one and only ox and give the proceeds to the church. This spring they are pulling the plow themselves.

The businessman was silent for some moments. Then he said, "That must have been a real sacrifice."

They did not call it that,' said the missionary. They thought themselves fortunate that they had an ox to sell!

In our text we see this kind of sacrifice.

The Lord is on His way to Calvary. As He goes, a woman shows her love and devotion to Him by a costly sacrifice.

This sacrifice was misunderstood by others, but it was commended by the Lord.

He tells those around Him that “She has done all that she could,” and that her sacrifice will be remembered forever.

The fact that I’m preaching on this account today is the fulfilling of the word of our Saviour.

Note: She Hath Done What She Could

1. IN THE AREA OF SACRIFICE (VS. 3-4)

Mark 14:3-4

³ And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured *it* on his head. ⁴ And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made?

She broke a box of ointment and poured it on the head of Jesus. This ointment was valued at 300 pence.

A pence was the daily wage of the average worker.

(See Matt 20:1-14)

Matthew 20:1-14

¹ For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man *that is* an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. ² And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. ⁵ Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? ⁷ They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, *that* shall ye receive. ⁸ So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them *their* hire, beginning from the last unto the first. ⁹ And when they came that *were hired* about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. ¹⁰ But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. ¹¹ And when they had received *it*, they murmured against the goodman of the house, ¹² Saying, These last have wrought *but* one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. ¹³ But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? ¹⁴ Take *that* thine *is*, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

Today, it was worth about \$30,000.00.

This spikenard was produced from a rare plant that grew in India.

It was very expensive and many people saved for years to be able to provide this for their own funeral preparations.

She gave all that she had to the Lord.

I wonder have we broken the alabaster box of our life and poured out ourselves for Him?

2. IN THE AREA OF SERVICE (VS. 8)

Mark 14:8

⁸ She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.

The Lord said, "She hath done what she could."

The expression "what she could" refers to all she possessed.

There were many things that she couldn't do for the Lord, but in anointing Him with the ointment, she was giving Him all she had and doing what she could.

When the opportunity presented itself, Mary took advantage of it and experienced a once in a lifetime blessing.

So it is with us – When we are prompted by the Spirit of God that is the time to step up and serve.

Too often, we miss out on those special moments of service to Jesus when we ignore the impulses and leadership of the Holy Spirit.

3. IN THE AREA OF SURRENDER (VS. 3, 8)

Mark 14:3

³ And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured *it* on his head.

Mark 14:8

⁸ She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.

In this moment, this woman was making a great statement of surrender.

There were four classes of people who were anointed in those days:

- Kings (2 Kings 9:3)

2 Kings 9:3

³ Then take the box of oil, and pour *it* on his head, and say, Thus saith the LORD, I have anointed thee king over Israel. Then open the door, and flee, and tarry not.

- Priest (Exodus 29:7)

Exodus 29:7

⁷ Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour *it* upon his head, and anoint him.

- Prophets (1 Kings 19:16)

1 Kings 19:16

¹⁶ And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint *to be* king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint *to be* prophet in thy room.

- Dead (John 19:39-40, Luke 23:56, Mark 16:1)

John 19:39-40

³⁹ And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound *weight*. ⁴⁰ Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

Luke 23:56

⁵⁶ And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.

Mark 16:1

¹ And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the

mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

Certainly the Lord is all of these:

- He is the King of Kings (Rev. 19:16)

Revelation 19:16

¹⁶ And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

- He is the Great High Priest (Heb 3:1)

Hebrews 3:1

¹ Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

- He is the Prophet (Luke 1:76, 7:16, 24:19; John 4:19, 6:14, 7:40)

Luke 1:76

⁷⁶ And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

Luke 7:16

¹⁶ And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God hath visited his people.

Luke 24:19

¹⁹ And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

John 4:19

¹⁹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

John 6:14

¹⁴ Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

John 7:40

⁴⁰ Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet.

- He died but is Alive forever more (Rev. 1:18)

Revelation 1:18

¹⁸ I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Close:

She hath done what she could.

Illustration:

William and Mary Tanner were crossing a railroad track some years ago when Mary's foot slipped and became wedged between the rail and a wooden crosswalk.

Frantically she tried to get loose as a train approached around the curve. Her husband desperately attempted to free her.

As the train came closer with its brakes screeching, Mary realized it couldn't stop in time.

"Leave me, Bill! Leave me!" she cried. Seeing his efforts were useless, he arose quickly and held her in his arms to protect her as much as possible.

The train no able to stop rolled over them.

It was reported by someone who saw the tragic event that just before the engine hit them they heard her husband say, "I'll stay with you."

Although this man was unable to save his wife, his devotion never faltered.

He did what he could, as did this woman in this story.

Can we say the same today?