

Living Lent | April 3

Broken And Spilled Out

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

John 12: 1-11 (NRSV)

Encouragement for the Lenten Journey:

Shortly before Jesus was crucified, he came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus. They were having a dinner celebrating Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. Among the guests were some friends of Jesus: Martha and Mary. While they were talking and enjoying the event, an astounding thing took place. Mary, who loved to sit at the feet of Jesus, knelt unexpectedly beside him, shattered the neck of a flask of expensive perfume, and poured it on Jesus' head and feet. She wiped the rapidly evaporating perfume from his feet and dried them with her hair. It was a spellbinding moment. This act of devotion is one of the most

incredible stories of devotion in Scripture. It speaks of the love, humility, and sacrifice in Mary's heart. In this magnificent moment, we see the heart of a woman who did all she could for her Savior.

The perfume Mary poured onto Jesus' feet was costly. It was expensive. Scholars believe the perfume was imported from India and was equivalent to a year's salary. With the inflation of today, we are looking at a gift worth thousands of dollars. That's a lot of money!

One would think others would applaud Mary for giving her all to Jesus. Our culture applauds athletes giving their all for their team to win a championship. We recognize scholars who give their all to find a cure for cancer. We celebrate leaders who sacrifice their time, talent, and resources as they create multi-billion enterprises. Yet, in Mary's story, she is ridiculed by others.

To some it was a waste. A waste of money. A waste of time. A waste of a year's work.

But to Mary it was the expression of extravagant love. Mary did all she could. She did the thing nearest and dearest with what she had. Love does that, doesn't? Love does what it needs with whatever is readily available.

Steve Green, Christian singer and composer, wrote a song titled, "Broken and Spilled Out" which became a hit on Contemporary Christian radio several years ago. The lyrics are:

One day a plain village woman driven by love for her Lord

Recklessly poured out a valuable essence disregarding the scorn

And once it was broken and spilled out a fragrance filled all the room

Like a prisoner released from his shackles like a spirit set free from the tomb

Broken and spilled out just for love of you Jesus

My most precious treasure lavished on Thee

Broken and spilled out and poured at Your feet

In sweet abandon let me be spilled out

And used up for Thee

This Holy Week in what ways can you be BROKEN AND SPILLED OUT for our Savior?

Dr. Chris Winford has been the Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church in Brunswick since August of 2014 and unashamedly believes that God has called him, equipped him, and disciplined him for the sole purpose of shepherding His flock as he seeks to make His name known to all generations. The First Baptist Church of Brunswick, located on Union Street in downtown Brunswick, is a multi-generational church that seeks to lead people from where they are to where God wants them to be: making disciples who make disciples. Chris and his wife, Angela, have been married for 16 years and have two daughters, Abigail and Avery.

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