

**The Millennial Kingdom
Matt 26:1-16**

The Anointing at Bethany

Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples, 2 "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." 3 Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, 4 and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him. 5 But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. 8 But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? 9 For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor."

10 But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. 11 For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. 12 For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. 13 Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

1. **Now we find Jesus going back in time... (joke), actually Matthew inserts an event that isn't chronologically in order, we know this because John tells us that it was six days prior to the Passover.**
2. **Jesus is at a dinner party... a large gathering, at least seventeen people (Jesus , Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Simon, and the twelve)**
 - a. **I imagine it was a pretty cool gathering, as one of the people there had been raised from the dead by Jesus (Lazarus), and one healed of leprosy (Simon – they would not have been at his house if he was still infected!)**
3. **There are a lot of lessons and application we can take from this passage:**
 - a. **We could look at the fact that Mary knew Jesus was going to be crucified – she believed.**
 - b. **We could look at Judas's jealousy, and how the other disciples apparently joined in with him.**
 - c. **But I want to focus on the worship aspect of this passage... Things we can learn from Mary**

#1 Worship is a choice...

4. In times of blessing, it is not a hard choice.

Blessed be Your name in the land that is plentiful, where Your streams of abundance flow, blessed be Your name...

- a. When things are going well, the bills are paid, all the kids are healthy, we praise God.
 - b. Well, sometimes... to be honest when things are good we often become *complacent*.
 - c. We begin to take things for granted. We forget to praise God for our blessings, we get sidetracked with our activities and our stuff and we fall into a rut.
- 5. It is when the desert times come, these are the times that the choice becomes difficult. What will we do when the trials come?**
- a. the times we feel lost in the wilderness, the times when pain and suffering enter into our lives – those are the times that will determine *what kind of worshippers we will be.*
 - b. Sometimes the trials can seem to engulf us, we feel lost and forgotten. Maybe God has forgotten us... David experienced time like this...

Ps 13:1-6

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look on me and answer, O LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death; my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

- c. David wrote this during a time when he was being chased by a mad King, Saul, and he was reduced to hiding in caves...

6. But during times of difficulty is when trust must be engaged...

#2 Worship is trusting... in the present

(Ps 13:6) But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, for he has been good to me. (NIV)

Lam 3:20-24

I will remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every

morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." (NIV)

7. **Maybe you are going through a trial right now, maybe the walls of your cave are closing in, your enemies seem to be circled and they're pointing their arrows at you...**
 - a. **You are at a crossroads... you can drop to the floor and curl up, and let the trial engulf you...**
 - b. **Of you can drop to the floor, and worship... this is the time when trust must arise, when we trust not our eyes, but our Lord...**

Every blessing You pour out I'll turn back to praise, (but) when the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say... Blessed be the name of the Lord

8. **Take a moment to consider the God that not only see's your struggle, He empowers you to walk through it, no matter how hot the fire, no matter how high the waters, God will see you through to the other side**

Isa 43:2

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.

#2 Worship is trusting... in the future

John 12:3

Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair.

9. **Think of this woman, bringing her vial of Spikenard to the Lord. This is not just a jar of perfume; this possession was most likely her dowry.**
 - a. **You see there were no banks in Jesus day, if you had wealth, it was in the form of some tangible possession: Land, gold coins, or something valuable like a vial of Spikenard.**
 - b. **Her family had probably passed it to her in for when she found a husband, and it would have been her contribution to the groom's family.**
10. **The act of her bringing this to Jesus is an incredible illustration:**
 - a. **It is a picture of her giving her future, her security, and laying it at the feet of Jesus.**
 - b. **It is an act that defies logic: A rational person would say "what if Mr Right comes along, you'll be up the creek! What if he never comes, you'll have nothing to live on!"**
 - c. **It is a statement of worship – and trust. Trust that no matter what we give to the Lord, no matter how extravagant, it is never**

wasted. The NIV translates verse 10 “*she has done a beautiful thing to me*”.

11. It is a picture of our willingness to give to the Lord, which requires that we trust that He will take care of our needs.

2 Cor 9:6-8

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

#3 Worship is born out of love...

John 12:3

Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair.

12. One songwriter wrote:

“Love does not stop to calculate the less or more; love does not stop to work out how little it can respectfully give. With a kind of extravagance, love gives everything it has and never counts the cost. Calculation is never a part of love.”

13. Think about this, they are sitting there eating, and up walks Mary with a bottle of expensive perfume, and she just breaks off the top and pours the entire thing over His head and his feet.

- a. **This is the act of a worshipper that has not been tamed by the boundaries of religious rules. She doesn’t care if it is “proper worship”, she doesn’t care what the people there think, she is simply acting out what is in her heart.**
- b. **Worship is a reflection of the fact that God has won the heart of His bride, the Church, and it is not meant to be a dry, predictable relationship. It is meant to be a “divine romance”, full of life and energy even unpredictability!**

14. True love cannot contain it’s responses... we see movies and read books that give the accounts of the crazy and spontaneous things people do who are in love.

2 Sam 6:14-15, 21-22

David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, 15 while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD's people Israel-I will celebrate before the LORD. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. (NIV)

- 15. Some of you might be thinking “but I just don’t feel that way about God”. (Oh how terrible!)**
- a. In truth, many Christians fall into that category. Not because they don’t want to, they just don’t seem to “feel it”. I have felt that way. Matter of fact the first ten years of my Christian walk I felt that way!**
 - b. I would hear people talk about how much they loved God, how much they loved Jesus, and I just didn’t get it. I wanted to... I honestly thought I was less of a Christian because I didn’t feel it.**
- 16. But let me share with you how things shifted for me...**
- a. About ten years into my walk, I learned something in a Christian marriage seminar that changed my marriage: I learned that love is a choice.”**
 - b. See not only did I not “feel” love for God, I didn’t “feel” love for my wife. I never really felt love for anyone... (man I was messed up!)**
 - c. But that one truth changed my marriage, as I began, on a conscious level, to CHOOSE to love my wife. I did that by making decisions**
 - i. to get to know her,**
 - ii. to serve her,**
 - iii. to bless her by taking her into consideration with my choices and actions,**
 - iv. to surrendering myself to her emotionally,**
 - v. to really focus on her as my “one flesh”**
 - d. And over time, that love grew – and grew – and every year it gets stronger and stronger!**
- 17. But that also changed my relationship with God – I thought “hey, if it worked for my wife, maybe it will work for God.”**
- a. So I began to make choices to**
 - i. get to know God through reading His word,**
 - ii. to serve Him through ministering to His people,**
 - iii. to bless Him by taking Him into consideration on my choices and actions (would the Lord want me to do this?),**
 - iv. to surrendering myself to Him emotionally**

#4 Worship will fill your house...

John 12:3

Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

18. This perfume was meant to be used one drop at a time, a pound might have lasted a lifetime. Yet Mary pours every last drop out, and the fragrance would have been overwhelming. Everyone in the house, even the people down the street would have experienced the fragrance.

- a. Perhaps I am stretching, but to me this is a beautiful picture of that house being filled with the aroma of the worship of the Lord.**
- b. It reminds me of a scene described in Rev...**

Rev 8:3-4

Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

19. This picture begs the question: What is the aroma of your home?

- a. Is there tension? Is there an aroma of antagonism? Is there a smell of gunpowder, because someone just exploded?**
 - i. (Perhaps we need some “Worship Fabreeze”)**
- b. I'd like to make a challenge to you all: This week, take whatever device you have for music, and fill it with worship.**
- c. If you don't have any – go out and get some! Grab some Paul Baloche, or Chris Thomlin, or Matt Redman, or whatever ministers to you... and play it in your house – every day!**
- d. Paul encouraged it:**

Eph 5:18-20

And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...

- e. And let the aroma of the worship of the Lord fill your home.**

1 Kings 8:10-11

And it came to pass, when the priests came out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

Zeph 3:17

The LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with his love, He will rejoice over you with singing." (NIV)

*I have heard so many songs
Listened to a thousand tongues
But there is one
That sounds above them all
The Fathers song
The Fathers love
You sung it over me and for eternity
Its written on my heart
Heavens perfect melody*

*The Creators symphony
You are singing over me
The Fathers song
Heavens perfect mystery
The king of love has sent for me
And now youre singing over me
The Fathers song*

Isa 6:1-4

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

*"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory."*

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. (NIV)

Copyright © 2010 Clay Ritter. This data file is the sole property of Clay Ritter. It may be copied only in its entirety for circulation freely without charge. All copies of this data file must contain this copyright notice. This data file may not be copied in part, edited, revised, copied for resale or incorporated in any commercial publications, recordings, broadcasts, performances, displays or

Matthew 26:1-14

other products offered for sale, without the written permission of Clay Ritter. Requests for permission should be made in writing and addressed to Pastor Clay Ritter, c/o Calvary Chapel of Wilmington, 2831 Carolina Beach Rd, Wilmington NC, 28412.