

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

- Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)
- Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King’s baptism.
- Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)
- Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)
- Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)
- Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.
- Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.
- Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.
- Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.
- Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.
- Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.
- Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.**
- Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

In Matthew 25 we have Christ prophesying of His Second Coming in the distant future when He will sit on His throne of glory and judge the nations. In Matthew 26 we have Christ prophesying of His impending death in the immediate future – which would take place in two days.

It is noteworthy that in the shadow of the cross, Jesus spoke at length about His second coming showing that He knew the cross was not the end.

He shared these things so we might know that all these things related to Him are being worked out by the sovereign hand of God in perfect accord with His purpose and timetable.

And that brings us to Matthew 26.

Matthew 26:1–13 (NKJV)

1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples,

This formula “*when Jesus had finished*” concludes each of the 5 main discourses in the book of Matthew (cf. 7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1). In each case it marks a pivot turning point in the book. Upon completing the Olivet Discourse Jesus immediately transitioned to His impending death.

What He has to say now applies directly to the disciples...

2 “You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

They knew that in 2 days was the Passover.

Passover is the oldest religious festival in the world. It has been going on now for about 3500 years. It traces its history back to Exodus 12. The Hebrews were in bondage down in Egypt where they had been for 400 years (cf. Gen. 15:13). In that context God raised up Moses to be a "deliverer" for His people from hand of Pharaoh.

God instructed His people to take the blood of a lamb and to apply it to the sides and over the doorway of their homes. When He passed through the land in the night if He saw the blood **applied** (and it had to be applied) He would PASS OVER. If the blood was not applied the firstborn in every home throughout the land would die.

Thus, the firstborns of all the Egyptians died that night, but the children of Israel were spared causing Pharaoh to call for the Jews to leave the land. This event is known as THE EXODUS!

But the Passover lamb was a PICTURE of the ultimate Lamb of God Who would come and take away the sin of the world.

When John the Baptist, the prophesied forerunner to the Lord (cf. Isa. 40:3), came on the scene he introduced Jesus by saying this:

Slide # 2

John 1:29 (NKJV)

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said,
“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Three years later, two days before it happened, Christ prophetically tied His coming crucifixion to the coming Passover. Then Christ was crucified EXACTLY on Passover at the very time they were killing the Passover lambs (cf. Mt. 26:2). Thus, Christ was THE PASSOVER LAMB that fulfills all the previous typology thus becoming the ALL-SUFFICIENT blood sacrifice for sin.

Slide # 3

1 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)

7 Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed **Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.**

The lamb represents an innocent SUBSTITUTE. The penalty for sin is DEATH (cf. Rom. 6:23). In the OT when a person sinned they would bring a lamb to the priest and confess their sin. They were saying, "***I have sinned and so I should die, but I am presenting this innocent lamb as my substitute***". The offender would then put his hand on the head of the lamb signifying the lamb being his representative. The lamb's throat would then be slit resulting in a bloody death, allowing the sinner to go free.

Thus, as the ULTIMATE Lamb of God Jesus took our place as our substitute. He bore ALL our sin on the tree (cf. 1 Pet. 2:24). Paul in 2 Cor. 5:21 says, "***For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.***"

Jesus ALONE paid the full penalty for sin. His was an ALL-SUFFICIENT payment. It was a ONE-TIME payment. Hebrews 10:14 says, "***For by one offering He has perfected forever...***". This is the GOOD NEWS of GRACE! "***Jesus paid it all - all to Him we owe!***"

The disciples had already been told that Christ was going to die by crucifixion as seen in Matthew 20:18-19 (cf. Mt. 16:21; 17:23; 20:18; 26:2). What was **NEW** was that it was going to happen in relation to Passover. Christ here links His crucifixion to Passover. This year He Himself would be THE ULTIMATE PASSOVER LAMB fulfilling all the typology that had gone before Him.

Commentators wrestle over whether this was spoken on Tuesday or Wednesday of the crucifixion week. I lean toward this happening on Wednesday with the crucifixion happening on Friday.

But note the precision here. Christ specifically says that on **Passover** “**the Son of Man will be delivered to be crucified.**” Realize that the Jewish day was counted from sundown to sundown. Christ was taken in the night and by mid-morning, He was on the cross. So on the very same day (Passover Day) He was taken, and that very same day He was crucified.

“**Son of Man**” is a Messianic title going back to Daniel 7:13-14 and it was Christ’s most used title for Himself as recorded in the gospels, being found there some 80 times.

But there is one other important point to bring out here. The test of a true prophet in the Bible is that when he prophesied something was going to happen then it had to happen EXACTLY as he said which would prove it was from God. And it was the “one-strike rule”. If you ever struck out even once you were out and were deemed a false prophet and had to be stoned.

Slide # 4

Deuteronomy 18:20–22 (NKJV)

20 But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, **that prophet shall die.**

21 And if you say in your heart, ‘**How shall we know** the word which the LORD has not spoken?’—

22 when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, **if the thing does not happen or come to pass**, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

But here is the deal! Often the prophets prophesied about things many hundreds or even thousands of years in advance. How could such a thing be tested? Well, here is how it worked. The prophets who gave long-range prophecies also gave short-range prophecies. If the short-range prophecies were accurately fulfilled, then the long-range prophecies could also be trusted to be fulfilled.

Now realize Jesus in the Olivet Discourse has just previously given a whole host of long-range prophecy details related to His second coming. How can we know they are true?

Well, Jesus also gave short-range prophecies and they were all fulfilled to the letter which means we can also trust Him for the long-range prophecies.

Jesus here in Matthew 26:2 told the disciples that in two days – specifically in relation to Passover He would be “**delivered up to be crucified.**” It would happen exactly on Passover.

Some translate “**delivered up**” (Gk. *paradidomi*) as “**betrayed**” but it literally means “**to be handed over**” which does imply betrayal or treachery.

Again, the timing here was precise. Repeatedly during His ministry, Christ’s enemies had tried to kill Him, but it was not according to God’s timetable (cf. Lk. 4:29-30; Jn. 5:18; 8:59; 10:39, etc.). But now it was His time!

The feast of Passover was the first feast on the Jewish yearly calendar and was celebrated specifically on the 14th of Nisan which was then immediately followed by the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread (Nisan 15-21). Often the entire 8-day period was lumped together and generally referred to as Passover.

If you are looking for INTERNAL PROOF of the Bible's inspiration, then consider Leviticus 23. In this ONE chapter, God gives a prophetic overview of His plan of redemption as it is centered in the Messiah as seen in the 7 calendar feasts in the Jewish year.

These feasts are dealt with throughout the Bible, but ONLY here in Lev. 23 are they all listed in chronological order. Lev. 23:4 emphasizes that these feasts are according to “**their appointed times.**” God has a specific reason for their precise sequence and timing.

There are 3 spring feasts, one summer feast, and 3 fall feasts. These feasts all depict the coming redemptive career of the Messiah. In this regard the first 4 feasts were ALL fulfilled with amazing precision in conjunction with the first coming of Jesus.

Therefore, the last 3 can also be expected to be fulfilled with equal accuracy in regard to Christ's Second Coming.

Slide # 5

SPRING FEASTS - Christ's First Coming

Passover: Sacrificial Death - Nisan 14

Unleavened Bread: Holiness – Nisan 15

Firstfruits: Resurrection - Nisan 16

SUMMER FEAST: Pentecost (Church) – Sivan 6

FALL FEASTS - Christ's Second Coming

Trumpets: Call to Assembly - Judgment – Tishri 1

Atonement: Repentance – Tishri - 10

Tabernacles: Kingdom Rest – Tishri - 15

Just as sure as the prophetic feasts related to Christ's first coming were fulfilled to precision; and then that of the Church has been fulfilled to the letter; so also will the prophetic typology related to Christ's second coming as portrayed in fall feasts yet also be fulfilled to the letter.

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.

This was a meeting of religious leaders who were the movers and shakers of the religious establishment. The predecessor of Caiaphas was his father-in-law named Annas. The high priest according to OT protocol was to serve for life. But Rome did not want the high priest having too much power so they stepped in and made Annas step down and replaced him with Caiaphas who served from AD 18-36.

It is bad when the secular government has a major role in running the temple. Annas was evidently considered by the Jews to still be the rightful high priest and is regarded as such in various places (cf. Acts 4:6). However, Caiaphas was practically serving in that role as assigned by Rome, so in effect, Israel at this point had two high priests which certainly was contrary to biblical instruction (Lk. 3:2). Annas still exerted tremendous influence behind the scenes (cf. Jn. 18:13).

Caiaphas was a Sadducee and was in charge of the affairs of the temple. Every time he appears in Scripture he is seeking to destroy Jesus (cf. Jn. 11:47-53). Nice guy!

In 1990, a small coffin (ossuary) was found in Jerusalem containing the bones of Caiaphas, verifying his historicity. – **Tim LaHaye**

Slide # 6



This ossuary is limestone. It is twice inscribed "**Joseph, son of Caiaphas**" and held the bones of a 60-year-old male.

The plotting players involved (chief priest, scribes, elders and high priest) are all thought to be representative of the Sanhedrin which was the supreme court in Israel. And they were here for the express purpose of plotting on how best to kill Jesus.

They were way past on deciding what should be done about Jesus. They knew they wanted Him dead, the only question now was how to go about it. They were here to plot MURDER.

Slide # 7

John 11:49–50 (NKJV)

49 And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all,

50 nor do you consider that it is **expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.**"

These religious leaders felt threatened by Jesus. He acted like He owned the temple complex. I mean in the space of 3 years He had cleansed the temple twice and no one could stop Him. He consistently exposed the religious leaders as hypocrites. He dared challenge their authority, reputation, and their very position. In their minds, He had to go.

They knew by now they could not take Jesus down through arguments (He always won, cf. Mt. 22:46) and they dared not take Him by force because this comes right on the heels of the triumphal entry (cf. Mt. 21:46).

So they decided to take Him "by trickery" (Gk. *dolos*) which is the idea of by stealth or in a sly deceitful manner.

5 But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

In their plotting, they agreed it should wait until after Passover which in effect would not be for at least another 10 days – roughly speaking about 2 weeks.

They wanted to wait until after the crowds were gone lest a riot ensue and that could be bad for them with Rome. Rome insisted on keeping the peace and demanded the Jews stay in line. If the Jews got out of line Rome would come down on Pilate for not keeping control; and if Rome came down on Pilate then he would really come down hard on the Jews and that would have especially bad ramifications for these religious leaders.

Now something has to give here. Jesus just said the crucifixion would happen on Passover, while these religious leaders determined it would have to happen after the feast. Who is going to be right?

Well, according to God’s sovereign timetable it had to happen on Passover – and so it did. The religious leaders wanted it carried out in a quiet/stealth manner, but Jesus indicated it would happen right in middle of the hustle and bustle of Passover – the busiest Jewish holiday on the calendar.

This emphasizes that God is sovereign. God was going to let them have their way, but not on their time schedule and not in the way that they had envisioned. It had to happen on Passover!

The plans and predictions of the religious leaders were not accurate, but what Jesus prophesied was fulfilled to the letter. God knows because God is in charge. He is sovereign. And you just can’t beat sovereignty!

No one (humanly speaking) saw Judas coming into the picture or the part he would play. That changed everything! His “middle of the night” plan changed everything.

Matthew now switches gears and flashes back to a few days earlier.

6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper,

There are 3 parallel gospel accounts dealing with this anointing of Jesus as found in Matthew, Mark, and John (Mt. 26:6-13; Mk. 14:3-9; John 12:1-8).

There is another time when a different woman anointed Jesus as seen in Luke 7 but that was a completely different occasion earlier in Christ’s ministry in Galilee (cf. Lk. 7:36-50).

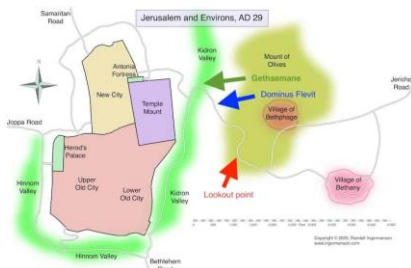
At this point, Matthew inserts this story thematically and not chronologically. John 12:1 gives the chronology for this event as happening 6 days before Passover. It seems that Matthew inserted it here to provide background for what he is next going to say in relation to Judas.

The contrast between the unfaithfulness of Judas and the devotion of Mary is stark as is also the insight and discernment between Mary and that of the other apostles.

Judas was in the movement for what he could get out of it and this incident was a real turn-off for him. It seems this may have been the final straw for him.

The event recorded in Matthew 26:6-13 took place in Bethany which was about 2 miles east of Jerusalem on the slopes of the Mount of Olives.

Slide # 8



This event took place at the house of Simon the leper. Most agree the sense here is probably that of “Simon who was formerly called the leper” because if he still had leprosy he should not have any outside contact and it would have been contrary to the law of Moses (cf. Lev. 13).

It is very possible (and perhaps even probable) that Jesus had previously healed this man who had long been identified with leprosy. This is the only mention we have of this Simon in the Bible. Some think he may have been the father of Lazarus, and his two sisters, Martha, and Mary. But this is just a guess. Certainly, he seems to have had a close tie with this family.

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.

We know from John 12 that this woman was Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus. And we know from John that she also anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped them with the hair of her head.

She is found only three times in the Gospels, and in each instance she is at the feet of Jesus [Lk. 10:38-42; Jn. 11:28-32; 12:1-3]...A woman's hair is her glory (1 Cor. 11:15). She surrendered her glory to the Lord and worshipped Him with the precious gift that she brought. It was an act of love and devotion that brought fragrance to the whole house. – **Warren Wiersbe**

An alabaster flask was one made of fine marble – perhaps imported from Egypt. The contents were a perfume like nard. It had a thin neck that had to be broken in order to extract the contents. According to Mark 14:5 and John 12:5 it was worth about 300 denarii – which was about a year's salary for the average working man (cf. Mt. 20:2).

What a scene this must have been...

Slide # 9



Since Jesus was Messiah (a title meaning “anointed One”) anointing His head was especially meaningful. It recalled the anointing of OT kings (1 Sm. 10:1; 2 Kg. 9:3, 6). - **HCSB**

8 But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste?”

Various disciples of Christ were involved here but from the parallel text in John 12 it is clear that Judas was the main instigator.

Slide # 10

John 12:4–6 (NKJV)

4 But one of His disciples, **Judas Iscariot**, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said,

5 “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?”

6 This he said, **not that he cared for the poor**, but because he was a **thief**, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

This is how the devil works. He often uses insiders to stir up trouble – even confusing and influencing those who are true disciples. And they sound so “spiritual” in the process.

The disciples did not know the true character of Judas. His criticism of Mary sounded so “spiritual” that they joined him in attacking her.

– **Warren Wiersbe**

These men were impacted by Judas’ tirade against Mary, which reflects how easy it is to be influenced negatively by carnal people who may not even be true Christ-followers. – **A Bible Commentator**

9 For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor.”

It was customary for many Jews to do something special for the poor during Passover so they were sensitive to this idea (cf. Mt. 11:5).

The value of this perfume was about a year’s salary for a common worker. In the United States today they say that is about \$50,000. This is a lot of money to just pour out for a single anointing – or so it seemed to the disciples.

Of course, Judas who was leading the charge was a thief in charge of the money bag and he was thinking that would have been quite a haul to take from the bag. As John stated he was a total hypocrite and cared nothing about the poor.

As I say this seems to be a decisive turning point where Judas was thinking, *“If I can’t get something out of this “gig, I am going to get out of it what I can by betraying Jesus and then abandon this dead-end movement.”*

Perhaps his reasoning went like this: *If Jesus is going to die which He was clearly talking about then that would prove (in the mind of Judas) that He was not truly the messiah and the promised kingdom is not coming in after all. So he thought, “I am going to get out of it what I can while the getting is good.”*

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.

Perhaps Jesus overheard them in hushed tones grumbling about this situation.

But as He was aware of it He confronted them, saying, “**Why do you trouble the woman?**” And then said, “**For she has done a good work for Me.**”

Jesus came to her defense. When Jesus defends you – then you are vindicated (cf. Rom. 8:33; 1 Jn. 2:1-2).

They completely missed the MAJOR point – that it’s really all about Jesus! Note the language here as Jesus says her motives were “for Me”. In her heart, this was truly all about Jesus.

The disciples failed to properly appreciate Jesus for WHO He was and the significance of the moment in terms of the context of what was happening.

Mary made this all about Jesus in view of His impending death and sought to honor Him accordingly. In contrast, the disciples were oblivious to the moment! She had spiritual insight that they didn’t have. Yes, giving to the poor is important but valuing and worshipping Jesus is the number one PRIORITY. Jesus, Himself takes precedence over everything else.

Undoubtedly, the precious ointment had been a treasure held in the family for some time, and the reckless abandon with which she dedicated it to the anointing of Jesus was not a senseless extravagance but an act of supreme devotion. – **John Walvoord**

Mary loved Jesus supremely and this was the time and way to show it, and she did it with everything she had to give.

The time to express DEEP LOVE to loved ones is not after they die, but now while they are still living. Mary knew what was coming and she knew this was the time, if ever there was going to be a time, for her to express her love and devotion in this supreme manner.

And Jesus appreciated it very much – which is ultimately what matters. It is Him we love and serve and we are to do supremely. It is His approval that we seek.

11 For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always.

If the concern was legitimately for the poor there would be ongoing opportunities to minister in that way because as Jesus said, “**you have the poor with always**” (cf. Deut. 15:11).

However, the opportunity to demonstrate their love for Jesus in this life in the here and now was very soon coming to a close.

Slide # 11

Deeds of benevolence are good and are always in order (Mk. 14:7).
But there would never be another opportunity to do what Mary did.

– ***Wycliffe Bible Commentary***

After His resurrection Jesus promised, “***I am with you always***” (Mt. 28:20), but in that case, He was referring to His spiritual presence which is not to be confused with His earthly presence related to His earthly ministry which is what He was talking about here.

12 For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial.

It is amazing how many miss the significance of this simple statement. Many, if not most, commentators say that Mary did this, not knowing what she was really doing, but that Jesus applied her actions to His coming burial. But that is NOT what Jesus said.

Jesus plainly said, “she did it for My burial.” She had His burial in view. This was her motive. She was honoring the Lord in this way because the way the Jews honored the dead in a proper burial was to anoint the body with fragrant oil prior to burial.

You see while others were evidently not listening very closely to what Jesus was teaching, Mary was.

Slide # 12

Luke 10:38–42 (NKJV)

38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house.

39 And she had a sister called **Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.**

40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.”

41 And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.

42 But one thing is needed, and **Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.**”

I believe this comes into play right here. Mary loved the Word of Jesus! She was a good student and listened carefully. In recent days Jesus had been talking about HOW He was going to be killed. **In Matthew 20:18-19** He had specifically told the disciples He was going to Jerusalem where He would be betrayed to the chief priest and scribes and that they would condemn Him to death.

Then He told them specifically that they would deliver Him to the Gentiles to have Him crucified. Realize that crucifixion was so brutal that Roman citizens were exempt from this form of the death penalty. Only non-citizens could be crucified. Jesus was NOT a Roman citizen and therefore could be crucified.

The intent of Rome was to totally humiliate anyone who dared to cross Rome. If one crossed Rome they would put you on a cross.

Crucifixion was for non-citizen criminals and once dead they were normally not afforded any dignity in burial. Normally after death on the cross a body was left to putrefy on a cross then it would be unceremoniously dumped into the city dump in the Hinnom Valley on the edge of Jerusalem where it was left to burn along with the rest of the garbage. Normally, those crucified received no burial at all – certainly not an honorable one.

Mary evidently was taking all this in and in light of what Jesus was saying, wanted to do what she could to honor Jesus. If He was to be crucified the expectation was that there would be no honorable burial, and so she wanted to do what she could to honor Him. In Mark 14:8 it says that Jesus specifically said, “***She has done what she could.***”

What this woman did honored Jesus and gave Him burial preparations that, under normal circumstances, He otherwise would not have received. – ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

But once again, God turned what was normally expected on its head and in His sovereignty worked in such a way that Jesus was buried in the tomb of a rich man – again in perfect fulfillment of prophecy.

Slide # 13

Isaiah 53:9 (NASB)

9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

Give Mary high marks. She seems to have comprehended what was happening regarding Jesus' imminent death in a way that none of the other disciples did. As Jesus said her "good part" in focusing on the Word of Jesus would "not be taken away from her."

She knew what was happening because she listened carefully and learned from Jesus. She was able to take that "good thing" and apply it in a very special and appropriate way for such a time as this in a way that no one else really understood.

Only if Mary's act is seen as born of her spiritual comprehension can the tremendous praise from Jesus be properly understood.

– *Wycliffe Bible Commentary*

Years ago Andree Seu Peterson wrote an article in world magazine in which she said, "The woman with the alabaster flask of costly ointment did not know she was preparing Jesus' body for burial (Matthew 26:6-12). – World Magazine, April 7, 2012.

I responded to the article and the magazine printed my response.

Slide # 14

I love Andrée Seu's column, but she is mistaken when she said that the woman who anointed Jesus' feet did not know she was preparing His body for burial. Mark quotes Jesus saying that in anointing Him, "she has done what she could," even while the disciples were oblivious to His message that He was going to die. That is why Jesus memorialized her-let's not take that away from her.

Dwight Oswald; *Council Bluffs, Iowa*

Andree then emailed me and said she had never considered what I was saying before and said, "You may be right."

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."

Even though Jesus is just a few days out before the cross, yet He knows the cross is not the end. There will be a preaching of the gospel involving His death and burial (as well as His resurrection) throughout the whole world. And so it has been...

The use of “gospel” (*to euangelion*) is significant here in that the pronoun “this” must identify it with His death and burial, which would lead to His glorious resurrection, and this is good news for the world.

– **Ed Glasscock**

And Jesus says wherever this gospel goes the story of what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her. It will honor her in memory of what she did.

And so it has been. God Who inspired Scripture ordained that this story be forever remembered as recorded in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and John (Mt. 26:6j-13; Mk. 14:3-9; John 12:1-8). Even today we are remembering and honoring her once again for what she did.

These two stories in Matthew 26:1-13 present two great contrasts.

First, there is a contrast between the esteemed religious leaders who HATED Jesus and plotted His death, and that of Mary who showed her LOVE and devotion to Jesus in the greatest way she knew how.

The religious leaders had power, prestige, and great privilege (humanly speaking). Mary as a woman in that society had no significant power or prestige, and was not greatly advantaged. Yet, in the eternal scheme of things Mary’s devotion is the thing that will be honored forever as indicated by Christ. In contrast where now are the chief priest, scribes, elders, and high priest? They are in the place of eternal dishonor and will forever be in the place of eternal torment if they did not come to repentance.

Second, there is a contrast between the disciples of Christ (who of all people should have gotten it) and that of Mary who really did get it. The disciples were oblivious to the time and significance of what was happening. Mary on the other hand as a great student of the Lord was tuned in and responded in a Christ-honoring way for which she is eternally remembered.

The religious leaders were all about SELF.
 Judas was all about SELF.
 The other disciples were essentially oblivious.
 But Mary GOT IT!

It pays to spend time at Jesus’ feet and be on Christ’s page. Those that do so choose the “good part” which redounds to their eternal reward.

There are some ads out on TV and online with are titled, “**He Gets Us**”. It seeks to make Jesus “**relatable**” with each little story ending with “**He Gets Us.**” Now there is a place for this emphasis. Hebrews 4:15-16 emphasizes that as believers we have a High Priest who can sympathize with us. “He gets us” in that sense and that is good.

But I would caution us that Jesus is not all about us. In the Christian culture at large so often the emphasis is “**It’s all about ME**”. So much is “man-centered” and “self-centered” as if God is here to serve us.

I submit to you that Mary was not walking around thinking “He Gets Me” rather what she was commended for is that “**SHE GOT JESUS!**” She was totally Jesus-focused as she anointed His head and feet with oil and then wiped them with her hair. Jesus said, “she has done a good work **for Me**” and again, “she did it **for My** burial”. Her focus was totally Jesus centered!

When it comes to Jesus – what is it all about for you?

Are you all about self?

Are you oblivious to the proper place of prioritizing Jesus in the context of what is happening?

Or are you in tune with Christ and seeking to honor Him in the greatest way you can in terms of what He is doing? And frankly were we stand today this means being all about the Church. You see, the major thing Christ is doing in the world today is building a forever family called the Church. This is the CHURCH AGE. This is the “Christ page” in the here and now!

So many professing Christians are not really on the Jesus’ page because they have not sat at the feet of Jesus taking in His Word. And consequently, they are out of sync in terms of the moment and how to really honor Him appropriately for such a time as this.

Around here we often say, “**Live Ready**”.

But there is another thing I often say: “**It’s all about Jesus!**”

Indeed, “**It’s all about Jesus – Live for Him - Live Ready!**”