

How Much is Jesus Worth?

God's Word:

Matthew 26:3-16

Key Verse:

"Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."

-Matthew 26:13



Breaking It Down:

This is a story about a woman using expensive ointment to anoint Jesus shortly before He would be betrayed by Judas and crucified. The significance here is that the ointment used was not just something you would pick up at Wal-Mart; in fact, it was something few folks could afford. Back then, people often used expensive alabaster bottles, which were semi-transparent and resembled marble, to store costly ointments. They would seal the bottle once the ointment was placed in it to prevent it from drying up. This meant using it required the long neck of the jar to be broken and the ointment to be used all at once.



The disciples were irritated that this woman would pour out such a valuable item on Jesus when it could have been sold and the money used to feed the poor. First, Jesus rebukes them. Then He explains the significance and purpose of her act to the disciples. He tells them to leave her alone because she has done something good. He then goes on to explain that she was performing on Him one of the rituals necessary for someone who was going to be buried. This was one of several times Jesus tried to get them to

understand that He was going to die. Finally, He explains that this woman's act was so right and special that she was going to be remembered every time His story was told.



Living It:

This woman is a model for us as Christians today. We can show our love for Christ by using all of our talents and energy for doing His work.

The disciples did not realize the woman in this passage was showing how much Jesus was worth. She gave to Jesus something of great value to her and her family and used it for His good.



What about you? Have you considered how much Jesus is worth to you? Is He worth using a God-given talent for His benefit and service rather than using it to make you look good or become famous? Maybe you sing well and want to have a music career someday. Maybe you are good in sports and want to have a professional career in that sport. Is Jesus more important to you than anything else in this world? Are you willing to sacrifice being known as one of His in order to succeed?

How about on an even more personal level? Is Jesus worth being made fun of by your friends if they knew you were a Christian? Is Jesus worth you using some of your allowance or job money to help feed someone or send medical supplies to those in need?

God has done so much for us and is so deserving of everything we have to give, yet many times He is last on our list of priorities. He so wants to be our best friend, One who listens to all we have to say. He so wants to be our loving Father, One who makes sure we have what is best for us every day.





Questions:

1. Why were the disciples upset with what this woman had done?
2. How did the woman's act show how much she valued Jesus?
3. Do you think you might have felt the same way the disciples did if you didn't understand Jesus was about to be killed?
4. How can we be an example of how much Jesus is worth?



Do It!

Throughout our lives, we will be faced with times when we will have to count the cost of following Christ. Sometimes we will fail, but God is merciful and will forgive us if we only ask. The key to successfully living for Christ is to always make Him our first priority.

Take a minute to consider how much Jesus is worth to you today and see if there are areas in your life where you can show your love for Him.

Then, start every day by talking to Him. Begin to make every decision by asking yourself, "How much is Jesus worth to me?"