

What Will You Be Remembered For?

- *Matthew 26:6-13*

- **This weekend, and specifically tomorrow, we will celebrate Memorial Day which in its truest sense is a day we set aside & remember the sacrifices of the many who have given their lives for this great country.**
 - It's a day that many get off from work & a time where many choose to travel; and those things in and of themselves is certainly not wrong. But may it also be a day where we stop to remember those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom as we educate our children & grandchildren on what it means to be free & why freedom is so precious.
 - It is an honor to read in history about the battles that have been fought and the many men & women who have given everything so that we could be free today.
 - It is b/c of the heroic efforts of many that makes this day & more specifically this country so special.
 - To look back at the obstacles that refused to stop us.
 - To see how sheer will & determination drove men & women to overcome staggering odds.
 - To be a part of the vision that our founding fathers & leaders had only dreamed of.
- **Today is a great day as we think back & remember the great heroes & the monumental stands that they took. Just to mention the names of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and others is to remember what real patriotism is all about.**
 - These men are remembered for their bravery, for their courage, for their unwillingness to allow anyone to stand in the way of America becoming a great nation.
 - And since that time, our American soldiers continue to fight even today for that same freedom that this country was founded upon b/c they love this country, they are willing to fight for this country & yes ... even give of their lives so that we can call ourselves Americans today.
 - Over 1.3 million have given their lives for this great country
 - About 1.5 million have been wounded during battle
 - And another 41,000 are still missing
 - These men and women are remembered today & may their lives serve as a memorial of the great price of freedom.
- **As we celebrate the memory of the many who have fallen for our freedom I ask you this question today, "What will your memorial be?" If someone looks back on your life years from now, what will they remember about you?**
 - None of us will probably have our names in the history books of the future. What is more likely to happen is that we will be remembered by those whose lives we've touched.
- **The woman in today's Bible reading touched the life of Jesus. He was so captivated by her sacrifice that He proclaimed that what she did would become a memorial to her. In one act she demonstrated what her life was all about.**
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
 - This Memorial Day we remember those who demonstrated their priorities by giving the supreme sacrifice. Men and women of the armed forces fought and died so that others might have liberty.
 - It is always sobering to reflect on the reality that the liberties we enjoy today came at a great cost. So we pause as a nation to express our recognition and to collectively say we won't forget.

- The woman who acted kindly and compassionately toward Jesus has not been forgotten either. It is so because Jesus knew her example would teach us an important truth. This incident teaches us the importance of perceiving the true value of things.
- This woman took a very expensive jar of perfume and lavished it on Jesus. To her, there was no question that Jesus was worth the price she paid. To the disciples who witnessed the occasion, it was an act of waste.
- But I believe this incident drives us to ask several important questions this morning:

1. Why Did She Do It?

- I am going to tell you something. Mary knew something there that day at that meal that nobody else knew, and she knew it b/c we are told that she'd been sitting at the feet of Jesus.
 - Luke 10:38-39 – “Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet,”
 - I can't express to you enough this morning how important that phrase & more importantly that action is. Do you know what Mary's thing was that she loved to do more than anything else? To sit at Jesus' feet and to listen to Jesus.
- Now I am going to tell you, when you talk about hard workers & being able to entertain guests, Martha was your lady.
 - Luke 10:40 – “But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.”
 - Martha comes out of the kitchen with her hands on her hips, perspiration on her brow, her hands with flour, and, she said, "Jesus, would you send Mary into the kitchen? Don't you care that she is just out here with so much work to be done?"
 - Luke 10:41 – “And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:”
 - Martha, you're worried about too many things. You're concerned about the meal & the entertainment & that the table is set just right, “*but one thing is needful.*”
 - Luke 10:42 – “Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”
- Let me tell you something, Mary had something that nobody else could take away from her. It doesn't make any difference if you are prize cook. It doesn't make any difference if your yard is the most beautiful in the neighborhood. It doesn't make any difference how much money you have in the bank. It doesn't make any difference how handsome or beautiful you are, how efficient that you are, how gifted you are. Those things can be taken away from you in a moment.
- Mary chose something as simple as sitting at the feet of Jesus, she had a penetrating insight into the way and the will of God. So much that she knew that Jesus was going to be crucified, and that his body needed to be anointed. None of the other religious big shots there that day knew that, because they had not been sitting at the feet of Jesus.
- Let me ask you a question today? Do you want to be remembered for something that will last? Do you want to make an impact in your family & in the generations to come? Do you want something that cannot be taken away from you? Then notice why Mary did what she did. She did it because she was in communion with her Lord. She understood what was most important in her life ... not to entertain or to please others, but to be at the feet of her Savior & worship Him.

2. When Did She Do It?

- Mary, somehow, knew that Jesus was facing Calvary. This is what broke her heart. And, she is coming, pouring out this ointment, because she knows, now, that her Lord is going to Calvary.
 - Now, in a little while, it would have been too late to anoint her Lord.
 - In a week, Jesus would have been crucified.

- If she had waited till it was more convenient, she may have never gotten the opportunity.
- Now watch this. Go back to when Jesus was crucified, they took His body & they placed it in a borrowed tomb, right?
- The Bible says that on the 3rd day, some ladies were going to the tomb to do what? They were going to anoint the body of Jesus.
 - Now I got to be honest, I never really put this 2 stories together until this week.
 - Did they get to anoint the body of Jesus? No. Why? Because Jesus had already risen. They had missed their opportunity. They were too busy at the time of His death & then when they finally had the opportunity to come back & do what they intended to do, it was too late.
- If Mary had not anointed the body of Jesus when she could, His body would not have been anointed for burial.
- Now listen church. If you want to have a life that will be remembered, do what you can when you can. Our time, our lives, are passing away. There are opportunities that, if you don't grasp them, you'll never have them. And, she did what she could, when she could, and Jesus acknowledged her service unto Him.
- Listen, let me tell you something folks—One of these days, it is going to be too late to accept Christ as your Savior. One of these days many will wait one day too long and their opportunity will have passed for eternity.
 - She did what she could, when she could. Some of you have a daddy; some of you have a mama; some of you have children; some of you have a loved one. Do you want to do something lasting? *"They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the brightness of the stars"* ([Daniel 12:3](#)). That's a life that lasts.

3. What Did She Do?

- What was it that she did? I want you to see what she did that so impressed Jesus, that Jesus said, "Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, be told for a memorial of her." (26:13)
 - She had an alabaster box of ointment, and she broke it. That's so important. She broke it, and poured it out.
 - By that action, Mary showed that she did all she could. She held back nothing. She didn't measure it out. She didn't say, "Well, I'll save some of this for a rainy day. I might need it or something." No, I mean, she gave Him all, every bit. And, that was only an indication of her way of life.
- Jesus said this in Mark 8:35 – "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."
- You want to have a life that counts, that will last for all eternity? Give it all to Jesus.
 - Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands me life, my soul, my all. (Isaac Watts)
- And, what Mary did here was only a token of her way of living. Lord, I'm giving you all, I'm giving you everything.
 - Let me ask you friend, have you done that?
 - You say, "I'd better save some for myself." That's our problem. Your life might count for a time, but it will never count for eternity.
- You know, I have to ask myself every once in a while, have I really given Jesus everything? Let me ask you church, is your life broken and poured out? Or, have you been trying to save up something for yourself?

- Oh, I'm sure there are other things that Mary had that she used. The point is that, when she broke that box, and poured it out, it was symbolic of, "Everything I have, Lord, is at your disposal."
 - Have you done that? Have you said that? If you have, you have a life that lasts for all eternity.
- **Mary was just a common lady. She spent some of her finest moments sitting at the feet of Jesus. She didn't waste any time, she did it when she could. And what was it that she did that impressed Jesus so? She gave all she had to Him. He didn't ask her for what she didn't have. He asked her for what she did have, and she willingly gave it all.**
- So many times we are consumed with what others are doing instead of making sure we have done all that we could. All God wants is for you to give all that YOU have, not what others have, to Him.