

Matthew 26: 6-13 Doing Something Special for Jesus

Introduction: Before I read this text or announce my subject, let me ask; “If you wanted to do something special for Jesus what would you do?” There are two people in our text who faced this question.

I. Simon the leper, verse 6.

- A. This event happened while Jesus was at Bethany, verse 6.
- B. Bethany was one of two small villages located near Jerusalem on Mount of Olives.
 - 1. It was the home of Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary.
 - 2. It was there that just a few days ago Jesus had raised Lazarus.
 - 3. It was there that Jesus found lodging each night during His daily visits to the temple in Jerusalem, Matthew 21:17.
 - 4. It was there that He gave the Olivet Discourse answering the questions about the destruction of the temple and the second coming of Jesus and the end of the Gentile age.
 - 5. It was there that He told the disciples that His death was but two days away – on the Passover.
- C. The event described in this text had taken place four days earlier – six days before the Passover, John 12:1.
- D. The event took place in the home of Simon the leper.
 - 1. That is, he had been a leper but had been cured from his leprosy.
(He could not entertain guests if he were still a leper.)
 - 2. The implication is that Jesus is the one who healed him.
 - 3. No doubt he was grateful for his healing and wanted to do something special for Jesus.
 - 4. He gave a supper and invited Jesus and His disciples.
(According to both Mark and John.)
- E. There was an even greater reason for his gratitude.
 - 1. He was probably saved after he was healed.
 - 2. He would be more grateful for salvation than for his healing.
- F. At any rate he was grateful and gave the supper for Jesus.

II. The woman with the alabaster box, verses 7-13.

- A. While at the supper in the home of Simon the leper, a woman anointed Jesus with ointment from an alabaster box, verse 7.
(John informs us that she was Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha.)
- B. An alabaster box was itself an expensive item.
 - 1. It was in shape more like what we would call a bottle.
 - 2. It was made of alabaster – milk, white and almost transparent.
- C. The ointment was called spikenard by Mark.
 - 1. It was the most expensive of perfumes from the far east.
 - 2. It cost a lot and could be sold for a lot.
- D. According to Matthew she anointed the head of Jesus, verse 7.
(According to John she poured it on both His head and His feet.)
- E. According to historians and archaeologists the bottles were made with very small mouths from which only a drop at a time could be poured.
- F. Mark said that she broke the top off the bottle in order to pour it out more freely.
- G. She did a totally unselfish thing.
 - 1. She did not want to gain favor with Jesus or with His disciples
 - 2. She just wanted to do something nice for Jesus.
 - 3. She did not let expense stop her.

4. She could have kept it for herself.
(Every woman would wish for such perfume and few would ever have it.)
 5. She freely used it all for Jesus.
- H. The disciples were not at all complimentary but critical, verses 8-9.
1. If one will let criticism hinder him from serving Jesus then the Devil will see that he gets plenty of criticism. (Much of it will come from people who ought to be supportive.)
 2. We need to be careful lest even we become overly critical of those who are serving Christ.
(Let's be supportive.)
- I. Jesus was lavish with praise, verses 10-13.
1. Mary, who often sat at the feet of Jesus, had an insight into His forthcoming death and anointed His body aforetime for the burial.
 2. Jesus not only praised her, but said that she would be praised wherever the gospel is preached.

III. The saved today.

- A. Like Simon the leper and like Mary, the sister of Lazarus, the Lord has done so much for us.
1. He died on the cross for us to keep us out of hell.
 2. He arose from the grave to guarantee us a home in heaven.
 3. Every good thing we have is from Him.
- B. We who are saved ought to all desire to do something special for the Lord.
1. Something more than just coming to church every Sunday.
(That too, but more than that.)
 2. Something more than our regular tithes and offerings. (That too, but more than that.)
- C. I cannot answer the question for you – only for me.
1. It doesn't have to be something big or expensive.
(Jesus is interested in our heart more than He is the pocketbook.)
 2. But when it does come to expense, we should not hold back on anything we are able to do.
 3. I have chosen to give myself as well as my means.

IV. The unsaved.

- A. I am not going to ask you who are unsaved to do anything for Jesus – little or big.
- B. Rather I am going to ask you to let Jesus do something big for you.
- C. It is as though you are on a roller coaster that will jump off into space at any time.
1. As is stands right now you would land in the fires of hell.
 2. Jesus loves you and Jesus can save.
- D. The Bible – the most dependable book in the world – promises that if you will call on Jesus and trust in Him He will save you, Romans 10:13; John 3:16.

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