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## Faith Is What Faith Does

By Ken Terry January 16, 2024

### **TODAY'S READING:** Matthew 26

There are many things we can discern from today's reading, such as the plot to kill Jesus, the horrible betrayal, or the Institution of the Lord's Supper. All of these are very important events that took place. However, what stands out to me is the anointing of Jesus by Mary, *"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"* (Matthew 26:3; identified in John 12:3).

This woman took all she had--the oil--and anointed her Lord with it. How many of us are willing to stake all we have and all we are for Jesus? So many of us say the right things and appear to be working on the right things. However, we continue to miss the mark. But not this woman. You see, this was not the first time she was at the feet of Jesus, hanging on His every word. Her actions and behaviors spoke louder than any words of affirmation.

My friends, are you at a point of surrender like this faith-filled woman who praised, worshipped, and showed a great reverence for Jesus that had not been displayed before? Jesus identified this selfless act of submission by Mary, and He chastised those who showed their indignation towards her. *"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. For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial'"* (Matthew 26:10-12).

You see, my friends, as we extend our love for Jesus by serving Him and by being obedient to His teachings and commands, we too will be remembered by Him. However, we should not do so to gain favor and seek the glory of others. No, we do so because of our love for Him. Then one day He will reward us accordingly. I love what Jesus said about

Mary, "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" (Matthew 26:13).

My friends, faith is what faith does! There is no in-between or getting around surrender and submission when it comes to Christ. We are given a task to preach the gospel message. Let us do so with the same passion and vigilance as our sister Mary! You see, we will not always have the opportunity. Therefore, seize the moment, my friends. Jesus will return very soon. He is nearer than when you first believed.

**PRAYER:** Our Father in heaven, Jehovah God, we come before You humbly to thank You for Jesus. Thank You for His teaching and His love. Father, please continue to support Your people. Help us, Father, in our walk with Christ. Help us, Father, better understand how to surrender as this faithful woman that we have studied today. Father, please allow Your Holy Spirit to lead us in this effort. Help us to become the children of God you have called us to be. Help us walk in your righteousness. We ask these things in the mighty name of Christ Jesus our Lord, amen.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Matthew 27

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