



May 2025



From David:

At the time of this writing, it is what some call Maundy Thursday, and soon (tomorrow) we will be celebrating Good Friday and subsequently Easter. An interesting story is recounted in several Gospel stories. We will pick up in the first few verses of Mark's Gospel, chapter 14. It says in verse 1, "Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him."

It was the time of the Passover, which is what we celebrate at the time of Easter. A few verses later, Mark writes, "While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head." Other Gospels name her as Mary. We then read some people there were angry at such a waste of anointing oil.

Jesus then tells those who were angry to "Leave her alone." Finally, he said, "She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her" (verses 8 and 9).

I would like to highlight a phrase from what was quoted above. Jesus said Mary, "did what she could." I was meeting with someone yesterday who is living in subsidized housing and unable physically to work very much. He was lamenting that fact and how he wanted to do more. We created a budget. He only needs less than 100 \$ a month. (That isn't the number, but I am trying to maintain a level of confidentiality.)

We discussed the reality of his physical limitations and what he couldn't do, but it was also covered what he actually could do. He can do some things. Thus, he decided to be honest about his condition, and then he would focus on those things he could do to bring in income using his other skills.

Later, when I dropped him off somewhere, he texted me, "Hey, you won't believe what happened after you dropped me off. Jesus Christ my Savior is so awesome; he was listening to our talk." After dropping him off, he saw a friend of his, and out of the blue his friend gave him the exact amount he needed for his monthly budget to the penny (without mentioning that specific need).

You see, God wants us to do what we can do. However, we also have to trust him to do those things that we can't do. We cannot change the human heart. We cannot change many things. However, we can be friends with people. We can walk alongside them. We can pray for them. We can volunteer places. We do what we are capable of doing, but God brings the change.

From Male Staff Mentor Kurt Van Noord:

Do you remember when you were a new believer in Jesus and accepted Him dying on the cross for you? Did you hunger and thirst for righteousness and seek Him first in all you did? At ATLAS we are blessed to walk alongside individuals who are experiencing Jesus for the first time or are renewing their relationship with Him. We are blessed to see this hunger, thirsting and seeking of Jesus.

Over the past six months we have been reading through the Bible and the book of John with residents at Sunset Manor and anyone who wants to join us. For a while we had been meeting with one individual who can't get enough of God's Word and learning what it means to be a disciple. As a result, he has reached out to others, and another gentlemen has been joining our Bible study on Monday mornings. This has led to this individual renewing his walk with the Lord to the point where he is getting baptized later this month. These two individuals are now meeting on their own in the lobby at Sunset weekly as well as attending Bible study at a church and traveling with David on Sunday's as he preaches in various churches.

We have another individual meeting with ATLAS staff every Monday afternoon who is hungry and thirsty for Jesus as well. It has been incredible to see this person's growth and desire to be the best Jesus has for them.

It is so interesting to see God work and how He works so uniquely different in every situation depending on the need. We have been blessed to walk along people who are battling cancer, have lost loved ones, working through relationship challenges, in need of every day living resources, and so much more.

The fact that we are available, willing to listen, and genuinely care about them has allowed us to do those things and even more so be and share Christ's love that has either opened a door for them to meet Jesus or reconnect their relationship with Him. We love the opportunity to pray with each person we meet whether it is here at Atlas, at the mall, or anywhere in public. Did you know that every opportunity we pray with someone we are inviting them into the throne room of God, and for some, it may be their first time in His throne room.

This is all happening because of your obedience to support ATLAS as well as ATLAS' obedience to join the Lord in where He is at work. So, THANK YOU for partnering with us, and please be encouraged by what the Lord is doing through you through ATLAS!

Current Needs at ATLAS

- ◆ Toilet Paper/Paper Towels
- ◆ Keurig Coffee Cups
- ◆ 24-pack Water Bottles
- ◆ Current Donations Year-to-date: \$ 20,492.02
- ◆ Total Budget: \$ 120,000.00
- ◆ Total Remaining Need: \$ 99,507.98