Poured Out ~ Mark 14 1-11; 22-25

At Bethany, in the house of Simon the Leper (presumably healed), an unnamed woman approaches Jesus; John 12 identifies Mary of Bethany. Three shocks: she interrupts the gathering; she brings pure nard worth 300 denarii, about a year's wages, possibly a family treasure; and she breaks the alabaster jar and pours it on His head.

SHE UNDERSTOOD WHAT THEY MISSED (vv. 6–9).

She has taken Jesus' coming death seriously. Jesus says she has anointed His body beforehand for burial (v. 8). She honors the Passover Lamb. **This is worship:** everything precious poured out on Christ. The disciples rebuke her harshly: "Why this waste?" Judas argues it should have been sold for the poor; John tells us he was a thief.

THE WORTH OF JESUS.

Not a drop was wasted because of WHO received it. **The gift matches the worth of the Person.** Jesus says, "She has done what she could" (v. 8). The poor can and should be helped (v. 7), but love for God gives rise to that mercy. **Does our worship, time, giving, and labor match Christ's worth?**

THE GREATER WASTE (vv. 10–11).

Which is the greater waste: a year's wages poured out on Jesus, or thirty pieces of silver paid to betray the King of Glory? The woman sought no recognition; Jesus promises her deed will be remembered wherever the gospel is proclaimed (v. 9).

A few days later Jesus sits with His disciples at the Passover meal. The blood of the Passover lamb spared Israel from judgment; now the true Passover Lamb will shed His blood for sinners. He is prepared to die. This is the heart of His mission.

Poured Out ~ Mark 14:1-11; 22-25

She breaks her jar and pours its precious contents on Jesus. Jesus gives His body and pours out His blood for her and for all His people. Her gift costs a year's wages. His gift is of infinite worth: the blood of the eternal Son of God. She gives Him her most precious possession; He gives her everlasting life. She anoints Him for burial; He dies to save her. She pours out all upon the One who is about to pour out Himself for her.

WHAT SHALL WE GIVE IN RETURN?

Psalm 116:12: "What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?" The answer: lift the cup of salvation and call upon His name. We receive salvation by faith and with gratitude. Then we offer ourselves. Our worship cannot purchase His grace; it answers His grace. Our hearts, time, possessions, reputation, comfort, and very lives belong to the Savior who held nothing back.

Jesus promises He will drink the fruit of the vine anew in God's kingdom. His death approaches, but so does His victory. The Lamb whose blood is poured out will rise; His people will feast with Him. The Passover meal points ahead to the kingdom banquet.

FINAL APPEAL. Look at the cross. Look at the cup. What is too precious to give Him? The woman poured out all she had upon Jesus because she saw His worth. We pour out our lives for Him because He first poured out His life for us. "We pour out all, for He has poured out all."