

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

July 15, 2018

Why This Waste?

Following Matthew's chronology, the dinner given in Jesus' honor in Bethany was the last supper before the Last Supper. There were seventeen people present: Simon the Leper, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, the twelve apostles, and Jesus.

While they were eating, Mary broke the seal of an alabaster jar of expensive perfume and anointed Jesus.

"Why this waste?" howled Judas. Other disciples joined in: they were indignant and harshly rebuked Mary, fuming that the perfume—worth more than a year's wages—should have been sold and the money given to the poor.

These critics had often experienced the hospitality of the Bethany home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Did they ever high-five their hosts—and quip, "Why this waste?"

"Leave her alone," Jesus said. "She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me."

Was Mary's action extravagant? Yes. Was it wasted extravagance? No. Mary's act of devotion honored Jesus. A "beautiful thing" done for Jesus is never wasted and never forgotten.

Judas bristled at Jesus' rebuke to "Leave her alone!" He left the table, slithered out the door, and cut a deal to deliver Jesus to the enemy. A few hours later he would leave the Passover table, slip out the door, and make good on the traitorous transaction.

Judas had been given a privileged position. Of the thousands of residents of Judea, he was the only one chosen to be an apostle; all the other apostles being from Galilee. He had been a close companion of Jesus for three years; had seen the miracles and heard the parables. He was one of the few commissioned by Jesus to heal the sick, raise the dead, and drive out demons. And he held the trusted post of treasurer for the apostolic group.

He squandered all of that. The question he asked about Mary's deed is the question that should be asked of his: "Why this waste?" His wasn't the waste of a pint of perfume, but the waste of a position of influence. It wasn't the waste of things, but the waste of life. Jesus called him "son of perdition" (Jn 17:12), which Dr. Warren Wiersbe translated "son of waste."

The actions of Mary and Judas both had far-reaching (think eternal) consequences. Mary's act of love filled the house and the world with a fragrance that will last forever. Judas's act of betrayal left a stench that will also last forever.

Of Mary's deed of love, Jesus said, "Wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." Of Judas's deed of betrayal, Jesus said, "It would be better for him if he had not been born"—the eternal epitaph etched over the gate of his final purchase, the "Field of Blood."

Mary's devotion inspires us to live up to our best. Judas's disloyalty warns us of the tragedy of living down to our worst. We have choices. And choices have consequences.

Life is a gift. It isn't purchased. It isn't earned. It isn't deserved. It is given. And each life is custom-made. There are no

mass-produced, assembly-line, off-the-shelf, one-size-fits-all, lives. Your life is unique, one-of-a-kind, the only you in history. It's your life. You can spend it however you choose—you can use it wisely or waste it.

The apostle Paul wrote: "God's grace has made me what I am, and his grace to me was not wasted" (1 Cor 15:10 NCV).

God's grace to Mary was not wasted. His grace to Judas was.

By the grace of God, you are what you are. "We beg you who have received God's grace not to let it be wasted" (2 Cor 6:1 TEV).

Pray that examination of who you are, what you have, and what you do will never kindle the question, "Why this waste?"

— Joe Barnett

Outline For Godly Living

Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope for His lovingkindness. Psalm 33:18

When we walk with the Lord, we can be assured that His eyes are on us, His ears are open to us, and our good works are pleasing to Him. Because we have that walking talking relationship, we can continually be confident of His love. We know He will deliver us in troubled times, and our heart rejoices in Him always. That is the abundant life Jesus promised us.

—David Grubb

Mark Your Calendar : Susan has reserved a pavilion for us to have a potluck fellowship on **August 26th**. After we have our lunch together, all who would like to do so will conduct a service for the residents at Shelby Manor at 2:30.

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we'll be bringing: Oatmeal packets, Cocoa packets, Peanut butter, Squeezable jelly (not jars), Cheese & crackers (packets), Cookies (packet)

Anniversary : Terry & Scott Perry July 16

Reading : Romans 7: 14-25 ; I Corinthians 15: 6-11

NEXT WEEK : (July 22, 2018)

Song Leader : Greg

Scripture Reader : J.J.

Table & Announcements : Jonathan

Sympathy :

Our most sincere sympathies continue to be with the family of Hailey Wilhour. Her funeral and burial was yesterday, July 14.

Prayer list :

Rosanne : Carpel tunnel Pain. 2nd surgery in early August

Ron and Doris Bartanen : Are slowly improving, but continue to have significant health issues.

Pete & Hazel : Dealing with multiple issues, some age related

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Ruby, Mary, Doris, Delores, Marge, Betty, Francis,
Pete & Hazel,

Other members with ongoing issues :

Delaney West : Surgery on hold as tumor is being observed

Wayne : New meds, but extreme weakness continues.

Nancy Miller : Parkinson's Disease

Robin Shumard : Due to neurological issues which are secondary to diabetes, Robin is confined to a wheelchair.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law ..awaiting test result

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend is suffering from kidney failure due to diabetes. Stabilized, but remains an ongoing problem.

*** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders**

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !

