

THE GREATEST AMONG YOU 7

$$\text{\$} = \sqrt[n]{\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} e^{V_i l}}$$

Matt. 26:7 There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head, as he sat at meat.

Matt. 26:8 But when his disciples saw it, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose is this waste?

Matt. 26:9 For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

Matt. 26:10 When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.

Matt. 26:11 For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always.

Matt. 26:12 For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.

Matt. 26:13 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

BAD MOTIVES

- This woman did not care about the cost of the gift she brought to Jesus. Jesus was precious to her so she desired to give Him her most prized possession. *Prov.*

18:16 A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

- The Bible tells us that Judas spoke up and declared that the precious gift was a waste. Judas' true motive was self-centered because he desired the money for himself and not the poor. *John 12:6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.*
- Obviously Judas' motives were wrong from the beginning and yet he played along because he felt Jesus would make him financially blessed. But once, Judas was embarrassed because he was exposed, he could no longer hide his true motives. *Matt. 26:14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.*

THE LOVE OF MONEY

- As the leader of the disciples, Jesus should have been the one to decide whether or not the woman's gift was appropriate. Some of the disciples' selfish motives were revealed once they saw this extravagant act and they began to consider all that they have sacrificed to follow

Him. *Matt. 20:16 So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.*

- When we give up things to follow after Christ, we cannot reconsider and change our minds. We must stay committed to the decisions that we made and never look back. *Heb. 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*
- Judas never sincerely trusted God but rather he trusted in the purse that he carried for God. In other words, he was never in it for God's glory. It was always about the money for him and Jesus knew it all along. *Matt. 26:23 And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.*

TRUCEBREAKERS

- Judas felt that his own time was being wasted just as the ointment that Mary "wasted" on Jesus. He wanted back what he gave up for Christ, so he went and befriended Christ's enemies. *1 John 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*
- He originally agreed to learn from Jesus and give up all for him. But his desire for earthly success and jealousy caused him to go back on his word. *Luke 9:62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*
- Judas broke his agreement for an opportunity to make some money. Not only did he turn his back on the one that he claimed to love, but because his own motives and actions embarrassed him, he sought to have Jesus killed. *Mark 15:10 For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy.*

SUMMARY

What we give up for Christ's sake should never be sought after again. If we continue to seek the things we give up, then we never truly gave them up. We place ourselves in a dangerous position when we seek to be compensated for what we give up to follow Christ. This type of behavior will cause us to be envious of others and to feel jealous when we see others blessed with the things that we desire. When Jesus got blessed, some of the disciples began to reexamine what they had given up



to follow Him. They had no consideration for the constant challenges that Jesus faced as his enemies relentlessly sought to hunt him and kill him. They did not take into account that He was protecting them and praying for them. Those few that felt indignation towards the woman's gift didn't think of all that Jesus had done for them, but they starting thinking about the money and what they could have done with it.

This is the status-quo among present-day believers. Instead of being content with their current state, they desire more and allow this desire to make them go back on their word. They allow their envy and jealousy to motivate them to betray others for gain rather than trusting in God. We must never allow the cares of this life and riches of others to make us go back on our word. When we commit to something we must stay faithful. When we forsake our own covenant agreement for the desire of earthly goods and a great reputation, then how can we be trusted? Putting your hand to the plow and looking back makes us untrustworthy and unfit for God's kingdom.

Prov. 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

Prov. 13:11 Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.