

EXTRAVAGANT WORSHIP

3-17-24

THIS IS A SERIES OF MESSAGES, ON WELL KNOWN EVENTS AND TEACHINGS, IN THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST JESUS BUT THESE EVENTS AND TEACHINGS, ARE NOT COMMONLY UNDERSTOOD TO OCCUR JUST RIGHT BEFORE JESUS' CRUCIFIXION, DEATH, BURIAL, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION.

The last three chapters in Matthew and Mark, the last six chapters in Luke, and the last ten chapters in John – Are devoted to the last week of Jesus's life and a few events that occurred later.

PART # 1 – GIVING TO GOD SACRIFICIALLY – THE WIDOW'S TWO MITES

PART # 2 – THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST

PART # 3 – JESUS CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

PART # 4 – THE TWO ANOINTINGS OF CHRIST JESUS

MATTHEW 6: 33 – “But SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS and ALL THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU”.

THERE WAS THREE “COSTLY” ANOINTINGS OF CHRIST JESUS, DURING HIS FIRST COMING TO THE EARTH:

(1). AT SIMON THE PHARISEE'S HOUSE – LUKE 7: 36 – 50

This event occurred at the beginning of Christ Jesus's Ministry.

(2). AT LAZARUS' HOUSE IN BETHANY – JOHN 12: 1 – 8

This event occurred six days before “The Passover Feast”, before which Christ Jesus was to be crucified. (JOHN 12:1).

(3). AT SIMON THE LEPER'S HOUSE IN BETHANY – MATTHEW 26: 6 - 13; MARK 14: 3 – 9

This event occurred two days before “The Passover Feast”, in which Christ Jesus was to be crucified (MARK 14:1).

THE FIRST ANOINTING OF CHRIST JESUS

LUKE 7: 36 – 50 - (TEXT)

One of the Pharisees, name Simon, desired Jesus, to come and eat with him, It was customary in that day for outsiders, to hover around during banquets, so they can watch the “Important People” and hear their conversations.

LUKE 7: 37 – “And, behold, a (unkkown) woman in the city, WHICH WAS A SINNER, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisees house, brought an ALABASTER BOX (JAR) of ointment”,

Since everything was open they could either enter the banquet hall and speak to a guess. This explains how the woman had access to Jesus, He was not behind locked doors.

IN THAT DAY, WOMEN WERE NOT INVITED TO BANQUETS, WOMEN DID NOT TALK TO JEWISH RABBIS, NOR DID THEY EAT WITH THEM IN PUBLIC – NO LESS TOUCH A RELIGIOUS LEADER AND THIS “UNKNOWN” WOMAN, WHO WAS “SINNER” – UPON HER TOUCHING JESUS, IT WOULD HAVE MAKE HIM, CEREMONIALLY “UNCLEAN”, FOR THE UP COMING “FEAST OF PASSOVER”.

LUKE 7:38 – “And stood at His feet behind Him WEEPING, and began to wash His feet WITH HER TEARS, and did wipe them with the HAIRS OF HER HEAD, and KISSED HIS FEET, and anointed them with ointment”.

The woman admitted she was a “Sinner” and gave evidence, that she was a “Repentant Sinner”. If you check the order and harmony of the Gospels, you will discover that just before this event, Jesus gave this gracious invitation:

MATTHEW 11: 28 – “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you REST”.

MATTHEW 11: 29 – “Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest until your souls”.

MATTHEW 11: 30 – “For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”.

Perhaps that was when the woman turned from her sin and trusted in the Savior. Her tears, her humble attitude, and her expensive gift all spoke of a changed heart.

*IN EACH OF THESE THREE ANOINTINGS OF CHRIST JESUS – THERE IS A “CRITICAL PARTY”. IN THIS ONE, IT WAS “SIMON THE PHARISEE”.

Simon was embarrassed, both for himself and for his guests. People have been saying that Jesus was a great prophet (LUKE 7: 16), but he certainly was not exhibiting much prophetic discernment, if he allowed a sinful woman to anoint His feet! He must be a fraud; Simon probably thought.

Simon’s real problem was BLINDNESS: he could not see himself, the woman, or the Lord Jesus. It was easy to say, she is a sinner! But it was impossible, for him to say I am also a sinner (LUKE 18: 9 - 14). Jesus proved that He was indeed a prophet by reading Simon’s thoughts and revealing his needs.

JESUS GIVES SIMON THE PHARISEE, THE "PARABLE OF THE CREDITOR AND THE TWO DEBTORS".

Jesus says that there was a creditor, which had two debtors: and one owed "500 Pence" and the other "50 pence". And when both of them, HAD NOTHING TO PAY ON THEIR RESPECTIVE DEBTS, THE CREDITOR "FRANKLY" FORGAVE BOTH OF THEIR DEBTS! Then Jesus says to Simon tell me therefore, which of them, will love their creditor the most?

Simon answered and said "I suppose", the one whom he forgave the most. And Jesus said unto him, "Thou has rightly judged". The parable does not deal with the amount of sin in a person's life but the AWARENESS OF THAT SIN IN THEIR HEART. How much sin must a person commit to be a sinner? Simon and the woman were both sinners. Simon was guilty of sins of the spirit, especially pride, while the woman was guilty of the sins of the flesh (2 CORINTHIANS 7: 1). Her sins were "KNOWN", but Simon's sins were hidden to everyone, except GOD. And both of them were bankrupt and could not pay their debt to God. Simon was just as spiritually bankrupt as the woman, only he did not realize it.

Then Jesus forgave the woman's sins, something that only God can do (LUKE 5: 21) because "SHE LOVED MUCH (LUKE 7: 47). Then referring to Simon he says: "But to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little".

BUT JESUS WORDS OF FORGIVENESS WERE NOT CHEAP WORDS – THEY COST HIM DEARLY ON THE CROSS!

LUKE 7: 50 – "And he said to the woman, thy faith has saved thee; go in PEACE".

*THE SECOND ANOINTING OF CHRIST JESUS JESUS.

JOHN 12: 1 – 10 - (READ) - (k.j.b.)

*THIS EVENT OCCURED, THE DAY BEFORE, JESUS' "TRIUMPHANT ENTRY", INTO JERUSALEM (JOHN 12: 12).

JOHN 12: 1 – "Then Jesus SIX DAYS before the Passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead".

The village of "Bethany", disappeared after the apostles time, and was restored under the name "Bethabara".

The village of "Bethany", was on the eastern bank of "The Jordan River", where John the Baptist, baptized those seeking repentance.

It was in the vicinity of the village of Bethany, where Christ Jesus ascended into Heaven.

Lazarus' home in Bethany, was a place where Jesus loved to be. Where He enjoyed sweet fellowship with Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. In coming to Bethany, at that time, He was humanly speaking, exposing Himself to danger because this town was about two miles east of Jerusalem, which was the headquarters for all the forces, that were already against Him.

JOHN 12: 2 – “There they made Him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with Him”.

In spite of the many who were opposed to Jesus, there were still a few hearts which beat truly for the Lord. Lazarus was one of those, who sat at the table with the Lord, and Martha served. The scripture does not say anything about what Lazarus saw or heard from the time he died until he was raised again. Perhaps he had been forbidden by God, to divulge any such information.

JOHN 12: 3 – “Then took Mary a pound of ointment of SPIKENARD, VERY COSTLY, and ANOINTED THE FEET OF JESUS, AND WIPED HIS FEET WITH HER HAIR: and THE HOUSE WAS FILLED WITH THE ODOR OF THE OINTMENT”.

*Mary, the sister of Lazarus, is found only three times in the New Testament Bible.. All three times, she is found at the feet of Jesus (LUKE 10: 38-42; JOHN 11: 31, 32; JOHN 12: 4-6).

*MARY PUBLICLY STATES, THAT NOTHING IS TOO COSTLY, FOR HER TO GIVE TO CHRIST JESUS – FOR HE IS WORTHY!

She was saying in effect that there was nothing too valuable to give to Christ Jesus. He is worthy of everything that we have and are. Each time we meet Mary, she is at the feet of Jesus. Here she is wiping her His feet, with her hair.

*MARY WAS LAYING HER GLORY DOWN AT THE FEET OF JESUS.

*Since a woman’s hair is her “GLORY” (1 CORINTHIANS 11:15), she was laying her “GLORY”, as it were, at His feet. Nevertheless to say Mary herself would have carried the fragrance of the perfume, for some time after this. Thus when Christ is worshiped, the worshipers themselves carry away something of the fragrance of that moment.

*NO HOUSE OR CHURCH. IS SO FILLED WITH THE PLEASANT AROMA, AS A HOUSE OR CHURCH, WHERE CHRIST JESUS, IS GIVEN HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE!

*IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR “REVIVAL”, GIVE CHRIST JESUS HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE!

JOHN 12: 4 – “Then said ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, which should betray Him”,

*IN THIS ANOINTING OF CHRIST JESUS, “THE CRITICAL PARTY”, IS JUDAS, WHICH WAS WITH JESUS FOR THREE YEARS AND DID NOT SEE THAT JESUS WAS “WORTH IT”.

Jesus said this, in MATTHEW 21:44 – “And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be BROKEN: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will GRIND HIM TO POWDER”.

*MARY FELL ON THE “STONE” (CHRIST JESUS) AND WAS BROKEN BUT CHRIST JESUS FELL UPON JUDAS, AND HE WAS GROUND TO POWDER (CRUSHED)!

JOHN 12: 5 – “Why was not this ointment sold for 300 pence, and given to 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 bear what was put therein”.

John was quick to add, that Judas did not say this because he had any real love for the poor, but because he was a THIEF, he was greedy for money. Judas had the money box; and he took from it, what was put in it”.

JOHN 12: 7 – “Then said Jesus, let her alone: against the day of my BURYING hath she kept this”.

JOHN 12: 8 – “For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always”

JOHN 12: 9 – “Much people of the Jews therefore knew that He was there: and they came not for Jesus’ sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom He had raised from the dead”.

JOHN 12: 10 – “But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death”;

* THE THIRD ANOINTING OF CHRIST JESUS

MARK 14: 3 – 9 - (TEXT)

THE THIRD ANOINTING OF JESUS THIS OCCURED, TWO DAYS BEFORE THE FEAST OF PASSOVER (MARK 14: 1).

MARK 14: 3 – “And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as they sat at meat, there came a woman having a alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and SHE BRAKE THE BOX (JAR) AND Poured IT ON HIS HEAD”.

*ALL THREE OF THE ANOINTINGS OF CHRIST JESUS, THE “JAR” WAS “BROKEN” BUT IS ONLY STATED HERE, RIGHT BEFORE HIS “BURYING”!

*Just as Mary was smash up, her most valuable possession, expensive perfume, to lay at the feet of Jesus, so also Judas and the religious leaders, wanted to destroy Jesus, in order to get their true treasure. Judas wanted money. The religious leaders wanted to approval of the people. Judas even hides behind theology, in order to make his idolatrist grasping for money, seem sanctified.

Breaking the box or jar, merely means that the seal or wax that kept the odor preserved was “BROKEN”. Then the Spikenard, was poured, proving the flask itself was not broken or the liquid have been spilled at the breaking of the bottle.

Just shortly after this event, when Jesus instituted “The Lord’s Supper”, He said this:

1 CORINTHIANS 11: 24 – “And when he had given thanks, HE BREAK IT, and said, take, eat: this is my body, WHICH IS BROKEN FOR YOU: this doing remembrance of me”.

MARK 14: 4 – “And there SOME THAT HAD INDIGNATION WITHIN THEMSELVES, and said, WHY WAS THIS WASTE OF OINTMENT MADE”?

*It is interesting that the word translated “WASTE”, in MARK 14: 4, is translated “PERDITION”, in JOHN 17: 12 and is applied to JUDAS!

*JUDAS CRITICIZED MARY FOR “WASTING MONEY” AND JUDAS WASTED HIS ENTIRE LIFE!

MARK 14: 5 – “For it might have been sold for more than 300 pence, and have given to the poor,. And THEY MURMURED AGAINST HER”.

*IN THIS ANOINTING OF CHRIST JESUS, “THE CRITICAL PARTY “, WAS THE DISCIPLES!

It pains me to include the disciples in that rebuke, but they are there right alongside Judas’s displeasure, at spending the money, in such a lavish way. Most of our focus, though, falls upon the Pharisees and Judas. This is a display, of confused hearts, of the disciples but also the wickedness of both Judas and the religious leaders, of that day.

* BUT NOW, LETS TALK ABOUT THE COST OF THE SPIKENARD AND SEE IF WE WOULD THINK IT WAS A “WASTE”!

* IN BIBLICAL TIMES, SPIKENARD CAME FROM INDIA AND SOLD AT A COST OF 300 DAYS, OF “COMMON WAGE”.

IN TODAYS TERMS: AT 300 DAYS, AT 8 HOURS A DAY, AT \$15.00 DOLLARS A HOUR, THE PRICE WOULD COST \$36,000 DOLLARS!

ANYBODY UP FOR BREAKING SOMETHING “COSTLY” IN OUR LIVES?

MARK 14: 6 – “And Jesus said, let her alone; she has brought a good work on me”.

MARK 14: 7 – “For you have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me you have not always”.

MARK 14: 8 – “She has done what she could: she is come beforehand to not my body to my bearing”.

MARK 14: 9 – “Verily I say unto you, wheresoever this Gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world this also that she had done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her”.

There aren’t many kids named Judas today. As a matter of fact, the last 2,000 years the name Judas, is synonymous with betrayal. His legacy is connected to his darkest hour. And his darkest hour came about, as an expression of the degeneration of his heart and dedication to Christ. This wasn’t just a mistake, this was a character issue for Judas. He left the legacy of death. But this unknown woman, we are told, will always be remembered when we tell the Gospel story.

WHICH LEGACY WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAVE?