



Poured

Mark 14:3 NIV

While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as 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.

Have You Anything to Offer Christ?

Every marriage has its quirky side to it. Ours is no exception. When I throw something out, either in the garbage or into a recycling bin, it invariably returns, rises from the dead so to speak. Sometimes this little dance between my wife and I will go through three or four cycles. I throw something out, it shows up on the counter, I throw it out again, it is back on the table. We do disagree on what to keep and what to "recycle". A growing number of us are becoming increasingly conscious of the evils of wastefulness. You are probably like me. You recycle, you reuse, you repurpose. You try not to buy items without having a purpose in mind for it. This way of thinking filters down to other areas of life. You don't want to waste your time so when stuck in traffic you listen to podcasts, books and avoid areas where you know there will be backups and delays. You count your calories and the minutes you waste waiting in line. You probably were cut off by someone recently who was not wanting to lose a second by being behind you in traffic. If someone leaves a glass of milk on the counter, I am likely to pour it back into the milk container rather than throw it out. Maybe, you are like that too!

In an age of recycling and repurposing, there are two accounts in the Bible that come across as ridiculous. One is in the Old Testament and the second is in the New Testament. David was a hero king. He fought numerous battles, expanded the borders of Israel and forced several kings into subjugation. It was not always easy; many times, he fought superior forces who had the upper hand. In one such military endeavor, he found himself and his army surrounded by the Philistines who were bent on his destruction. Holed up in a cave, he had a craving. **At that time David was in the stronghold, and the Philistine garrison was at Bethlehem. David longed for water and said, "Oh, that someone would get me a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!"** (2 Samuel 23: 15) Bethlehem was his hometown and the water from the well there was more precious to him than the finest of wines. Three of his mightiest soldiers decided to break through the Philistine lines and grab some of the water and bring it to their beloved king. When they arrived back with the water, David refused to drink any of it. ... **instead, he poured it out before the Lord. "Far be it from me, O Lord, to do this!" he said. "Is it not the blood of men who went at the risk of their lives?" And David would not drink it.** (2 Samuel 23: 15-17 NIV)

This was of course a colossal waste of time and effort and no one would begrudge these three men for being furious with their king for not drinking the water they risked their lives delivering to him. Yet that is the point. We all are heading to dust and ashes and everything we gain, hold, create, earn, save or grab will slip from our hands and either be a treasure of Satan's or an offering to Christ. We decide the fate of

everything that comes to us; we are the judge and jury. David realized, and perhaps you have too, that love, and courage and loyalty and devotion are bigger than this world. They are the fabric of Heaven and no human being can hold any of them as their own. That water was not H₂O, it was supernatural and could not be “bottoms up”. It belonged to God because it came from Him. A Christian cannot measure the worth of her life by what she possesses but only in what she gives over to Christ. It is astounding, the emptiness that so many accept as normal. They hold onto all sorts of things: their talents, their time, their social skills, their money and their relationships all the time failing to see what wonderful things our Lord might do with them if He had them.

In the New Testament we have the oft discussed account of Mary, a follower of Jesus, who poured out an entire bottle of expensive perfume on Jesus. **While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as 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. Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume?"** (Mark 14:3-4 NIV) Indeed, what a great waste! And yet the Lord's reply gives us insight about what God thinks of such actions. **"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me."** (Mark 14:6 NIV) He went so far as to declare that what Mary did would always be remembered and honored! Have you ever done anything that could be categorized as eternally unforgettable?

The very nature of God is to pour out His life for those who love Him and those who hate Him, to die for the foulest of sinners and the most indifferent of unbelievers. His life was the ultimate waste. He was smart, holy, good, creative, beloved and a leader. He had every reason to live and do something with His life and He threw it away for you and me. You might argue that the salvation of the world was worth His life but that is because you are on this end of it. If you were on the other side of the Cross, you would see it all completely different. The disciples did. Peter rebuked Jesus for insisting He would soon die. For what?

If the nature of Christ is in you, then it is a part of your personality to give up to God indiscriminately anything and everything just because you love Him. There is no career, no home, no retirement, no friendship or prized possession that is too big to hold and keep to yourself. Whenever you hold something and tell God that He can't have it, you shrink spiritually and become a smaller person. But when you open your hands to Christ and offer Him anything and everything you have, the size of your life grows into a supernatural one. God takes hold of everything you give Him and what He makes of them is God-sized and God transformed. We look at some of the things we do as menial, as trivial, insignificant and unnoticed. When Christ is a part of them, He sees them another way. He considers them sacred. You have the opportunity at each moment to become one with God, to live in the vastness of the Holy Spirit. Open your hands and offer Him whatever you have there. Christ who is holy will make it holy and you will have joy in exchange.