

## The Normal Christian Life

### The Goal of the Gospel

#### Waste

- **Mark 14:3-4** – And while He was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as He reclined *at table*, a woman came, having an **alabaster flask of ointment**, of **very costly pure nard**, and she broke the alabaster flask and **poured it over His head**. But there were some who were indignantly commenting among themselves: Why has this **waste** of the ointment been made?
  - Waste means, among other things, **giving more than is necessary**.
  - Waste means that you give **something too much for something too little**.
- The Lord intends that the **preaching of the Gospel** should issue in **people coming and wasting themselves on Him**, like the actions of Mary.
- We must look at **wasting on the Lord** from two angles: that of Judas, and that of the other disciples.
  - To Judas, **everything** that was poured out upon the Lord was **waste**.
    - Judas stands for the **world**.
    - In the world's estimation, the service of the Lord and our giving ourselves to Him is waste.
  - The other disciples said the **same thing** as Judas.
    - The other disciples stand for other Christians.
    - Not only did they say it was a waste, they were also very upset about it.
  - If the Lord is **worthy**, then how can giving ourselves to Him be a waste?
    - What the world says about this **does not matter**.
    - When our eyes have been opened to the real worth of our Lord Jesus, **nothing is too good for Him**.
- In **approving** Mary's action at Bethany, the Lord Jesus was laying down one thing as a **basis of all service**: that you **pour out all you have, your very self, unto Him**; and if that should be all He allows you to do, that is enough.
  - It is not first of all a question of whether **"the poor" have been helped or not**.
  - The first question is: **Has the Lord been satisfied?**
- The service of the Lord is **not to be measured by tangible results**.

- The Lord's **first concern** is with **our position** at His feet and our **anointing of His head**.
- The **outflow** from us of a **life that is produced by the very Cross itself**—we must **give that all up to the Lord**.

### **Ministering to His Pleasure**

- The Gospel is **not just** to **satisfy sinners**.
  - Their satisfaction is a blessed **by-product** of the Gospel
  - The Gospel is preached in the first place so that *the Lord may be satisfied*.
- The first thing is that everything should be to the **satisfaction** of the Son of God.
  - It is only **when He is satisfied** that **we shall be satisfied** and **the sinner will be satisfied**.
  - Our satisfaction comes **unfailingly** when we satisfy Him first.
- But we must remember that He will never be satisfied without our **“wasting” ourselves upon Him**.
  - Real usefulness in the hand of God is measured in terms of “waste”.
- The principle of waste is the principle that He would have govern us.
  - Real satisfaction is brought to the heart of the Son of God only when we are really, as people would think, “wasting” ourselves upon Him.
  - It seems as though we are **giving too much and getting nothing—and that is the secret of pleasing God**.

(The Normal Christian Life – Chapter 14)