

The Normal Christian Life

The Goal of the Gospel

Anointing Him Beforehand

- **Mark 14:6, 8** – But Jesus said, Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a noble deed on Me... She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial.
 - In these verses the Lord introduces a time-factor with the word “beforehand”
 - There was something, represented by the pouring out of the ointment, which Mary had to do *beforehand* or she would have no later opportunity.
- In that day we shall all love Him as we have never done now, but yet it will be most blessed for those who have poured out their all upon the Lord today.
- The Lord has to open our eyes to His worth.
 - The idea of waste only comes into our Christianity when we underestimate the worth of our Lord.
- Of Mary the Lord said: “She has done what she could”.
 - This means that Mary had given up her all.
 - She had lavished on Him all she had; and yet on the resurrection morning she had no reason to regret her extravagance.
- We too should do “what we could”.
 - This does not mean the expenditure of our effort and energy in trying to do something for Him.
 - What the Lord Jesus looks for in us is a life laid at His feet with His crowning in view—when He shall be acclaimed in glory as the Anointed One.
- It is a far more precious thing to Him that we should anoint Him now with something costly, something from our hearts. May He receive such an anointing from us today.

Fragrance

- **John 12:3** – ... and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment.
 - By the breaking of that flask and the anointing of the Lord Jesus, the house was pervaded with the sweetest fragrance.
- Whenever you meet someone who has gone through experiences with the Lord, and was willing to be imprisoned by Him, you detect a sweet savour of Christ.

- We can only produce **impressions of God** upon others by **breaking everything**, even our most precious possessions, at the feet of the Lord Jesus.
 - Once that point is reached, God will begin to use us to **create a hunger in others**.
 - The life that depends on the Lord creates **impressions**, and impressions create **hunger**, and hunger provokes men to go on **seeking** until they are brought by Divine revelation into fullness of life in Christ.
- God does not set us here first of all to preach or to do work for Him.
 - The first thing for which He sets us here is to create in others a **hunger for Himself**.
- This matter of our impact upon others turns upon **one thing**, and that is the **working of the Cross** in us with regard to the **pleasure of the heart of God**.
 - It demands that I seek His pleasure, that I seek to satisfy Him only, and that **I do not mind how much it costs me to do so**.
- There must be a **willingness to yield**, a breaking and a pouring out of everything to Him, which gives release to that fragrance of Christ.
 - The Gospel has as its one object the producing in us sinners of a condition that will **satisfy the heart of our God**.
 - It is a blessed thing to be wasted for the Lord!

(The Normal Christian Life – Chapter 14)