

## THE ALABASTER BOX

(Matt. 26:6-13)

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Setting--Bethany, on slope of Mt. Olivet.
- B. Time--Last Sabbath before the crucifixion.
- C. Representative group:
  - 1. Simon--Restored Sufferer.
  - 2. Lazarus--living testimony of power over death. John 11
  - 3. Martha--a servant, always working.
  - 4. Mary--full of love and devotion.
  - 5. Disciples--Ambassadors for Christ, nucleus of church, preached to entire world. Col. 1:23
  - 6. Jesus--Savior, Son of God. Rom. 5:8; Jn. 3:16; 2 Cor. 8:9
- D. Breaking the Alabaster Box criticized then and now! John 12:6

### I. **"SHE HATH DONE WHAT SHE COULD." John 12:6**

- A. God deals with us individually, judges individually!
- B. Talents according to ability. Mt. 25:14-30 (esp. 15)
  - 1. One talent man did not use what he had.
  - 2. One talent man had the same responsibility as the five talent man because he had the same possibilities.
  - 3. 5,2,1 all responsible for doing their best.
- C. God does not ask what has the church done, but what have YOU done?
- D. Attendance Heb. 10:25 Only two reasons for missing--sickness and death--it is a matter of love.

### II. **IT REPRESENTED A SACRIFICE.**

- A. Could sell for 300 pence (Mk. 14:5) a year's wages.
- B. We make two lists of wants and needs:
  - 1. Need food, clothing, shelter, doctors, medicine.
  - 2. Want new chariot, home on lake, etc.
- C. Not a question of what I should sacrifice but how much? Rom. 12:1,2
  - 1. Example of clothes bought in meeting.
  - 2. How blind are we to God's gifts? Jam. 1:17

### III. **IT WAS BEAUTIFUL IN MOTIVE. John 12:3; Luke 7:38**

- A. Not done because she had too--but because of love!
- B. When we love we cannot do too much. We are sorry we cannot do more.
  - 1. Memphis Press Scimitar and boy with one arm and one leg. gave money to sister and said, "She's my sister and I love her."
  - 2. We can tell what kind of Christian, spouse, parent, etc. you are by your attitude. Would you have broken the box open?
  - 3. Some have "show me" attitude. "Show me" where I have to attend every service? etc.

### IV. **SHE DID WHILE SHE HAD OPPORTUNITY.**

- A. At end of ministry and under shadow of cross. Mark 14:7
- B. Did not wait until on the cross. Mark 14:8

1. Many wait until too late. Luke 16:19-31

**V. THIS IS NEEDED IN THE HOME.**

- A. Fewer divorces, happier homes, Christian homes.
- B. Husbands how do you treat your wives? Do you go "beyond the call of duty?"
- C. Wives? Do you let the husband be the head of home? Eph. 5:21-25
  - 1. Both H & W have unique problems, do we help?
- D. Sons and Daughters? I wish to turn back time.
- E. Parents to children? your training is half over if child is nine.
  - 1. Some children lost because parents have no time!

**VI. IN THE LOCAL CONGREGATION**

- A. Elders?
- B. Bible class teachers? Song leaders? Van???
- C. Preacher? Usually very good about this. I often feel very unworthy. I need your support and encouragement. It is a lonely life! Much pain in preaching!

**VII. ATTITUDES OF PEOPLE.**

- A. Visit some when it helps you more than them.
- B. Visit others, "Howdy stranger, been wondering about you? Thought you had forgotten where I lived."--feel like crying.
- C. We must all give our best to Christ!