

① To what extent should people be committed to Christ? Jo. 12:1-8, Mk. 14:3-9, Mt. 26:6

This incident is so significant that Jesus ~~said~~ it would be recounted wherever the gospel was preached - Lets find out why?

This "spikenard" was the entire savings - the dowry - the SS - the retirement - of a woman. In a moment of time Mary poured out here whole savings on Jesus 11 mos. wages

1st This act is an act of devotion - Mary's whole life poured out on Christ - (Mary, Martha, Lazarus)
Three reactions:

I Judas' reaction in Jo. 12:48 'Why was this not sold'....

Def "Waste" means when you spend too much and get too little.

Judas' ^{reading} typifies one ^{who} thinks this kind of commitment to Christ is "wasting" your life. The world thinks it's alright to have a little religion, once a week for 1 hr.

But when you become committed to Christ, you spend time ^(a) in studying the Bible, ^(b) in fellowship like this, & your values change then the world says "That's a waste"

~~Judas never was committed to Christ - he didn't call Him Lord. Judas followed Christ in order to further~~

~~his selfish goal i.e. Now let me point out~~
the world is not against commitment. becoming a doctor or an athlete or an exec. That kind of commitment is applaud

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But when people get committed to Christ and begin to spend more time studying His Word, even organizing their ^{life & their education} goals around serving Christ that's considered a "waste"

e.g. in Ponderosa - psychologist & prof. at OSU - asked about our family - he said "What went wrong?" I was stunned.

In other words - Commitment to Christ is O.K. as long as there is no real commitment

Judas never was committed to Christ - he never called Jesus Lord! Judas followed Christ in order to further his own goal of "What's in it for me?" (John 12 v. 6)

To Judas Jesus had no value - neither did the poor have value - he didn't care for them. - Money was all that counted ~~like the rich fool in Lu. 12~~

He even sold Christ for 30 pieces of silver when he bargained to the chief priests to betray Him.

This is like the rich fool Jesus told about in a parable (Lu. 12)

But when people get committed to Christ and begin to spend more time studying His Word, even organizing their lives around His Word, even giving up their careers or jobs - in Paul's case - he said "What was I doing?"

O.K. as long as there is no real commitment - then work - commitment to Christ

Paul has never been committed to Christ. He never called Jesus Lord. Paul followed Christ in order to further his own goal of White man's rule in the U.S. To Paul, as Jesus had no value - other than like the lost slave value - in that case for them - they were all that counted. He said that for 30 years of service under the emperor - the chief priests - between them - there is like the lost slave value - in that case for them - they were all that counted.

④ II The second response is in Mt. 26:6 - Here we find the other disciples also saying "Why this waste?" These are the believing disciples complaining about Mary's fanaticism. Their attitude was "moderation" - in (I Cor. 4:8) Paul waxes very sarcastic towards the corinthian church for their lukewarmness. This is the impotence of uncommitted Christians. Christ also despises lukewarmness - Sadducean church (Rev. 3:14-21)

There is tremendous pressure here in the U.S. for Christians to conform to the world's values - this compromise - this secular drift - in the modern church leads to mediocrity & hypocrisy which makes Christians indistinguishable from the world. Harry Blamires in his book "The Christian Mind" claims that we don't know how to think Christianly. Francis Schaeffer says this has led to a "post-Christian western world".

This is a good place for those of us who are Christians to start looking: Ask the Lord, "Do you want to tell me something about my values, my lifestyle?"

John says in I Jo. "you cannot love the world & love God". Titus "those who profess to know God with their mouth but their deeds deny".

These disciples at this point really had the wrong reaction - this was proved when they deserted Christ at this arrest. Later they too became as committed as Mary was.

