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Why this Waste?

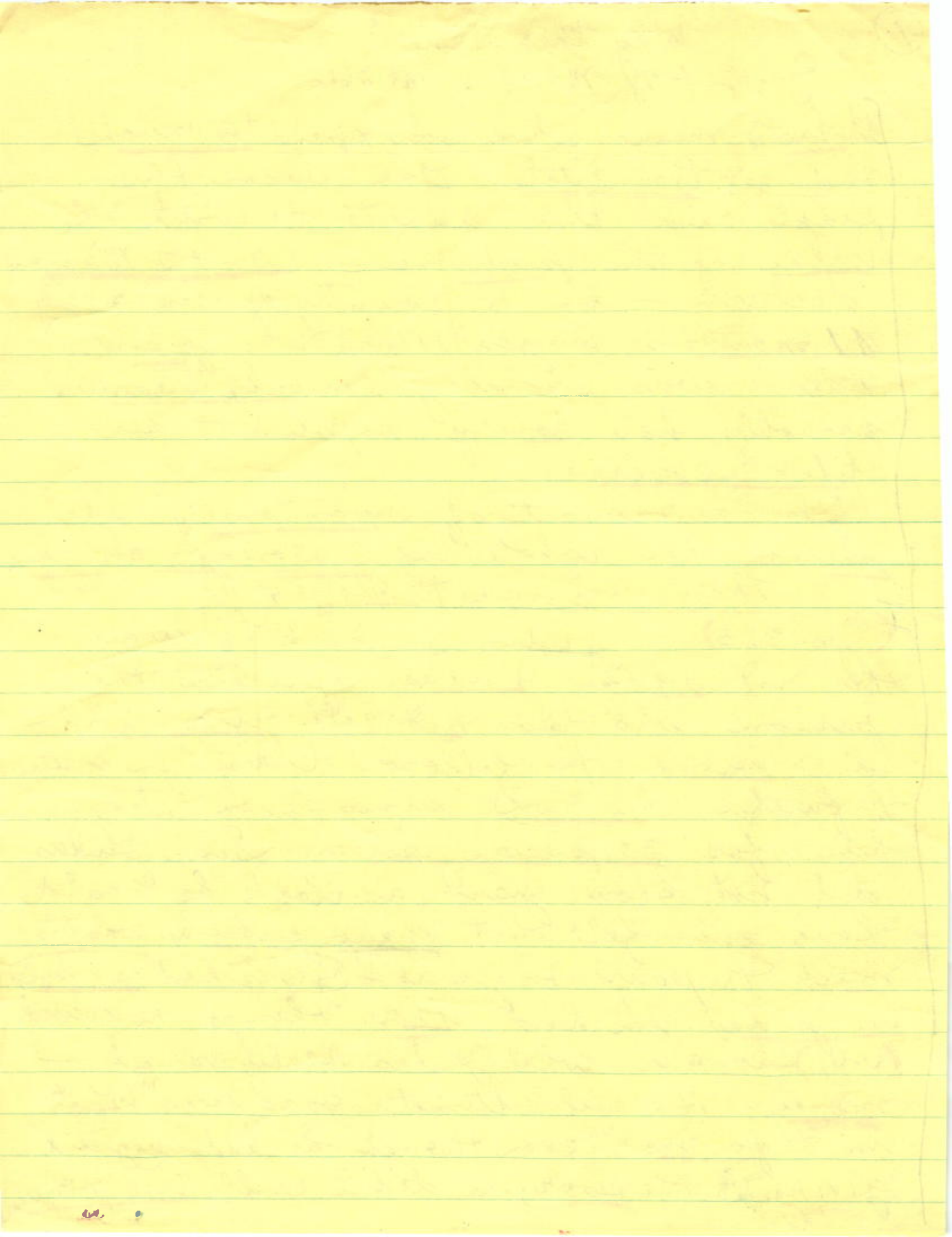
Jo. 12:1-7, Mk. 14:3, Mt. 26:6

Waste means when you spend too much and get too little. The reason the people said this has to do with the value of the perfume - 10-12 thousand dollars - in a country of great poverty 10 months of wages. Mary was poor. This was probably her only treasure probably her dowry, represents her life's savings.

In a moment of spontaneity she spilled her whole life's savings on Jesus.

Three Responses to Mary's Action

Jo. 3:3) - Judas said "Why was this not sold... Judas represents the person who does not call Jesus-Lord - he never did. He followed Christ in order to further his own aims - even betraying him for 30 pieces of silver. Since Judas did not know Jesus as Lord he would have even felt that cheap perfume was too much to pour on Jesus - Jesus had no value to Judas. He had other things he valued. (v.6) shows us what Judas really valued - money. His real ultimate goal was "What's in it for me?" even though he had suggested giving to the poor; he didn't really care for the poor.



④ This attitude betrays the fact that a person is more interested in the acceptance of man than living pleasing to God. Yet just the opposite is true - when people say you are spending too much time "being religious" and they estimate that it's a "waste of your real potential to spend it on the Lord. But just the opposite true? Isn't the day going to come when these people will realize that their refusal to honor God & serve Christ, spending their lives on self-centered goals was in fact the greatest waste possible. This is not to say we are being haughty - there, but for the grace of God go I - But it's a sad thing when a person will not come to God. And we have to say "Why this waste?" As for Judas - he actually sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

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II (Mt. 26:6) Here we find the other disciples saying "Why this waste?" - these are the believing disciples complaining about Mary's fanaticism how wasteful this is. Their attitude was moderation (I Cor. 4:8) Paul's sarcasm towards the church at Corinth which was a carnal group of Christians who had not grown. This describes the impotence of uncommitted Christians.

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(Lu. 12:13-21) There is a man who believes that all there is is money --- for me - my craps my basics.

God rebukes this man, not for dishonesty - he made his own money by his own effort. "You fool - you spent your whole life building this empire & tonight I will take your life from you. Now, who is going to spend your money?"

This is real waste - pouring your life out on getting "things" - which in a moment are gone - when you leave this life. This man did two things wrong:

① Laying up treasure for himself instead of giving of himself

② Not rich toward God - he did not consider what God put a value on - lives

(Man in Cal. ← Dennis "you could amount to something")

~~This is the view of the world system~~

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Imagine how Mary felt? "Look at this! what about the poor!" - She may have wondered why she did it. But Christ reassured her. There are people who do keep looking over their shoulders as they serve Christ. "Is this the acceptable thing I'm doing? I wouldn't want to be thought of as fanatic or going overboard on religion - we must be balanced"

⑤ This is the luke warmness of the Laodicean church which Jesus despises. There is tremendous pressure for Christians to conform to the world — this is the sin of the modern church — the compromise — the secular drift which Blamires talks about in The Christian Mind. John says "you cannot love the world + love God" — the resulting mediocrity which comes into our lives is ~~usually~~ it makes us indistinguishable from the world. This is a good area to start looking if you are wondering what the Lord wants to change in my life — ask the Lord "Do you want to tell me something about my systems of values + lifestyle — the lust of ^{life} pride, possession, money — ^{these are} those who profess to know God with their mouth but their deeds deny it" Titus.

III There was ^{Mk. 14:3} one there who said it was not wasteful ^(Jesus said) "She has anointed my body beforehand for burial" — she's the only woman who had that opportunity — the other women who went out Easter morning were not able to anoint his body "Teach us to number our days, Lord, that we may apply ourselves ^{minds} to wisdom" Luther's transl. Teach us to meditate on death until we become wise