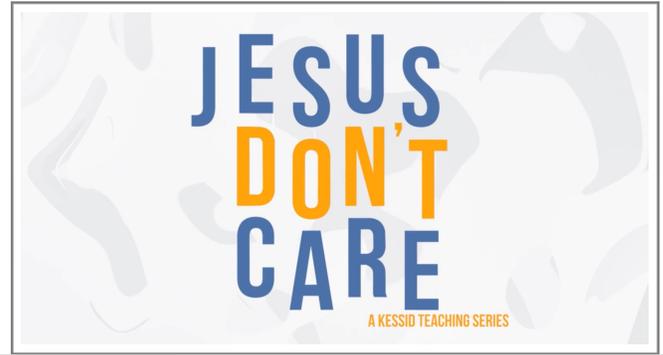


# "JESUS DON'T CARE ABOUT TREASURE"

Date: September 19, 2021

Speaker: Danny Clinton



**Today we are going to jump in without explanation around where we're going.**

- I'm just going to ask you to trust me...

**Part of learning from Jesus together is the agreed understanding that Jesus doesn't want to leave us where He found us...**

- We are all called to grow, transform, and develop.

**All four gospels present an account of Jesus being anointed by a woman with a costly jar of perfume...**

- There're all kinds of prophetic reason for this...
  - For Example... There's a clear implication of Jesus' kingship since, in the Old Testament, the anointing of the head was often associated with the dedication of kings...
  - Anointing is an appropriate way to honor the Savior/Messiah, seeing as anointing someone often means God has chosen them for His good work.
  - And so on...
- However, today I want us to honor those truths, and yet try and be fully present in the room as each of these anointings are happening...

**I'm going to walk through these chronologically, starting with the Gospel of Luke.**

- About a year before His death, Jesus was dining in the home of Simon the Pharisee, who had arrogantly neglected to extend the customary respect and hospitality to his guest...
- "Big Culture" told him to say "No" to Jesus, a potential threat to his own power.

*(Vs) Luke 7:36-39 – One of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him...*

- This Woman's presence was clearly an interruption... Unexpected and Uncomfortable.
- Screaming to the room that... "Jesus doesn't care about your well-refined and rehearsed presentations!"

**Her presence also forces us to ask perhaps the greatest question ever asked...**

**WHO IS JESUS TO ME?**

- Is He a figure head for me to show my friends?
- Is He a safety blanket?
- Or... Like for this woman... Is He the hope I've been waiting for all my life?
- She was able to say "No" to her own insecurities, shame, and even doubt, and instead say "Yes" to connection with her creator just as she was.
- And so, Jesus, experiencing this contrast in real time, says something...

*(Vs) Luke 7:40-50 – And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher."*

- And so, this Woman's offering was honored and proclaimed!
- In John's Gospel: Lazarus' sister, Mary, is the woman who anoints Jesus with a high-priced perfume at a dinner in Bethany.
- The story is similar to those in the other gospels, although this anointing takes place six days before Passover...

*(Vs) John 12:1-4a – Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> So they gave a dinner for Him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with Him at table. <sup>3</sup> Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume...*

### **Once again, a woman interrupts the "Jesus Party" they are all trying to have!**

- By this time the intensity around the ministry of Jesus has greatly intensified... There's a lot of planning and strategy needed to keep Him safe and these "Big plans" aren't cheap!
- They desperately needed resources, and yet here's another Woman pouring them all out on Jesus!

*(Vs) John 12:4b-8 – ...But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples (he who was about to betray Him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."*

### **Judas' concern points clearly to his own agenda.**

- He's asking the obvious questions here... "Jesus, don't you care about my plans and strategies?" What about me and my desires?

### **In contrast, Mary, on the other hand, has made up her mind...**

- "This is my God, My Savior, and My friend. All that I have is His!"
- Through her, the statement being made to all those in the room is...

**“There is nothing more valuable than relationship with Jesus.”**

**Lastly, the anointing of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark takes place two days before Passover in the town of Bethany at Simon the leper’s home:**

- They both tell the story about an anonymous woman with an alabaster box...
- And guess what... She’s another “Interrupter!”

*(Vs) Matthew 26:6-7 – Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came up to Him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on His head as He reclined at table.*

- Once again, the critics are present...

*(Vs) Matthew 26:8-9 – And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? <sup>9</sup> For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.”*

- They again describe the gift given as excessive, complaining that it could have been sold for more than a year’s wages... This could really help our movement!
- **Question:** Jesus, don’t you care about making the work we have to do easier?

*(Vs) Matthew 26:10-13 – But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>11</sup> For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup> In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. <sup>13</sup> Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”*

- She doesn’t look at making her work life easier, but instead at surrendering her life’s work to Jesus... “This is what I value the most and it’s yours!”

**This unknown woman’s purpose immediately contrasts with that of another...**

- Look at what happens immediately following this...

*(Vs) Matthew 26:14-16 – Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, “What will you give me if I deliver Him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup> And from that moment, he sought an opportunity to betray Him.”*

- Judas has decided enough is enough... He takes charge of the situation and is consumed by his own fear and need for control!

**Combined, all these stories paint a beautiful picture of what it means to Treasure God and the things of God above all else.**

**Time to get personal...**

- Everyone in this room has treasured something more than God... You just may not have admitted it yet...

**This is the very reason I didn't tell you at the beginning we were going to sit together within these stories about treasure...**

- ... Because so much of what happens in these stories is still happening...
- Even now it seems like whenever God wants you to reevaluate what you value the most, it often feels like an interruption... Nobody schedules these kinds of appointments with The Lord.
- My hope today was that the Holy Spirit would burst into our room and ask the difficult questions for me... Unexpected and Uncomfortable.

**That He might ask... "What actually belongs to you?"**

- Our Churches, Our Families, Our Money, even our Lives, don't belong to us...

*(Vs) Heb. 13:14 NLT – "For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come."*

- If you know Christ... Where are you growing, transforming, and developing? Or are you still in the same place Jesus found you?
- If you don't know Christ... Maybe today you should meet Him!