

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Title: Broken and Spilled Out
Speaker: Steve Berg
Text: John 12:1-11
Date: March 25, 2018



WARM-UP

An old joke, but perhaps in an appropriate place: A husband boasted to another male that he has never told his wife that he loves her for many years. The other man was aghast at such an approach to a marriage relationship. "Why haven't you told her that you love her for such a long time?" He replied, "When I married her, I told her that I loved her. If anything changes, I'll let her know!"

What would you say to a guy like that? What's his problem? Is there help for him?

"Broken and Spilled Out." You could use this song as an intro, or you could use it at the Application section. Go to Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiM57qZZuGM>

DISCUSSION

The Punch Line:

"It is an amazing thing when the worth of Jesus and the worship of His disciples' match."

A Quick Review:

- John 11:57 – 12:1-3: **Mary beautifies the room with her extravagant gift of love**
 - ⇒ Mary's lavish expression of love for Jesus:
 - * Spills out expensive nard – used for funerals
 - * Uses her hair to wipe Jesus' feet
- John 12:4-6: **Judas poisons the room with his self-interest and greed**
 - ⇒ Judas' messed up values – money is worth more than his love for Jesus
 - ⇒ **Contrast** Mary and Judas:
 - * Mary's heart *corresponds* (matches) with the treasure that Jesus is
 - * Judas' heart *contradicts* the treasure Jesus is
- John 12:7-8: **Jesus confronts Judas and protects Mary**
 - ⇒ "Leave her alone, Judas, because you will not always have me."
 - * Mary knows the preciousness of the time Jesus has left with them.
 - * **A match:** Jesus is inexpressibly wonderful; Mary is inexpressibly affectionate
 - * **No match:** Judas is counting money – three hundred days of wages was too much to spend on Jesus.
 - ⇒ "Leave her alone, Judas. You will always have the poor among you."
 - * Jesus tells him that he loves money, not the poor.
 - * "Preference for money is a preference for death." The results? His eventual suicide.
 - * Judas, "you cannot serve God and money." (Matthew 6:24)

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DISCUSSION

- ⇒ *"Leave her alone Judas. It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial."*
- * Jesus actually prepares Mary for His own burial. Mary expresses her love for Jesus because Jesus had raised her brother, Lazarus to life.
 - * Jesus told Mary earlier, "I am the resurrection and the life." (John 10:25) Jesus wants Mary's love to continue even when Jesus is in the grave six days hence. So Jesus tells Judas, "Back off! Don't try to destroy her love for me."

Pondering and Application:

The Crux of the Matter: "How is my (our) match?"

- Contrast Mary's response to Jesus with Judas' response to Jesus
 - ⇒ If Mary is a **"10"** in terms of expressing our love and adoration of Jesus (a great match), and if Judas' expression of his response to Jesus is a **"1"** (no match at all), where are we (am I) on that continuum?
 - ⇒ Do you have reservations about expressing love for Jesus like Mary expressed her love? Mary wasn't too worried about what people would think of her. Are you rather conscious of people around you when you are worshiping with God's community? If so, why is that?
 - ⇒ Are we hesitant to speak about Jesus freely outside of the church building, even when we are with other believers? Why might that be?
 - ⇒ Are we like the church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-5) where we do a lot of good things, but we miss one key piece – "our first love"? We don't do "the things that (we) did at first"?
- How might you be able to match your expression of love and adoration for Jesus in view of the amazing, wondrous love Jesus has for us? When could that happen? Where might that happen?
- We are unique people who were wired already in our mother's wombs (Psalm 139:13-14).

How do you most naturally express your love to Jesus? Examples below:

- ⇒ When you are out in nature?
- ⇒ When you are singing?
- ⇒ When you spend time in prayer alone?
- ⇒ When you pray with others?
- ⇒ When in times of solitude and silence?
- ⇒ When you speak in tongues for your own edification?
- ⇒ When you are worshipping together with God's people?
- ⇒ When you are digging into the Word?
- ⇒ When you are writing in your journal?
- ⇒ Other ways?