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# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## Called to Remember Matt 26:1-13

### Lesson Background and Introduction

Many followers of Jesus choose to serve him in dangerous or primitive settings, thousands of miles from home. They have exercised their devotion to the cause of Christ and his kingdom in what appears to be a radical manner. Because of their decision to do so, some of their family members and friends may look upon them as “wasting” their talents and education. As family and friends think and talk that way, they echo the criticisms of the disciples who viewed Mary’s action toward Jesus as a waste. Sometimes the labor of those who invest their lives for Christ may not seem to be bearing much fruit. That can give skeptics even more cause to question what others have chosen to do with their lives. And let’s face it: sometimes critics are right. But in those frequent cases where they’re wrong, they can cause doubt. That’s why people who invest their lives in kingdom work need encouragement. They need affirmation that what they are doing is the right thing. Think about it: What if Jesus had merely remained silent as the disciples voiced their criticism? What would that have done to Mary? As we ponder that question, we may also examine whether our own extravagant giving is being held back by what we imagine critics might say were we to make that potential gift a reality. To receive words of encouragement from others can be a great source of blessing to those who serve in difficult mission fields. Perhaps our class or our congregation is aware of an individual or family who has such a need. What can you do to keep in touch with them? How about keeping track of their birthdays or anniversaries? How about communicating with them on holidays? What gifts can the class or congregation provide to assist in the work being done? One great blessing can be to ask them what specific prayer needs exist. To know that others are praying for you can be one of the best sources of encouragement there is! Expressions of kindness and gratitude will lift the spirits of both those who offer them and those who receive them. And Jesus, who sees such acts, will certainly not view them as “waste.”

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

**Jesus' Love Expressed** - Jesus explained to His disciples the events leading up to His crucifixion. His triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the people's exorbitant response may have filled their minds with false ideas. Jesus is the King, but He is also the Suffering Servant who ultimately dies on a cross. At the same time, Jesus prepared His disciples for the dark days ahead, while the religious leaders held a meeting of their own, conspiring against Him. The chief priests, scribes, and the elders gathered with Caiaphas, the high priest, and planned to convince the governing authorities to put the Messiah to death.

**Mary's Excessive Love** - Before Jesus' crucifixion, He traveled to the home in Bethany of a man named Simon, a former leper Jesus healed. While He was visiting, Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, entered the house (John 12:3) and broke an alabaster vessel releasing a pound of fine perfume oil, filling the entire house with a pleasant fragrance. She anointed Jesus publicly, displaying her love and worship. Initially, this act upset the disciples, especially Judas who managed their finances. They viewed it as a waste, since the perfume, worth nearly a year's wages, could have been sold and given to the disadvantaged. Jesus allowed the extravagance saying it symbolized His preparation for burial.

**Surrender Demonstrates Love** - The crucifixion of Christ demonstrates God's amazing love. In what ways can Christians express their love and appreciation for this precious gift of salvation—fasting, sacrificial giving, committing long hours to church work? Or like Mary, doing something very extravagant before the Lord? Believers return Christ's love by surrendering their lives to Him in total obedience.

*(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)*

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Some of those present were appalled, but Jesus applauded her, “She has done a beautiful thing to me”

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Lord, help us not to define our self-worth by what we do for You, but by what You have done for us. Show us how we can show Your love to others

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial*

(Mark 14:8 NKJV)

*from "Our Daily Bread", Sept 07, 2016)*

**Series: Discipleship & Mission**

**UNIT: Call To Ministry**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Called to Believe the Resurrection**

(Matthew 28:1-15)

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### Remembering the Betrayal through Treachery (Matt 26:1-5)

#### *Treachery always wants company (1-3)*

Company so that judgment will be shared (1 Peter 4:3-5)

Company to carry out wicked plans (Prov 24:1-2)

The wicked lie in wait for the company and lives of the righteous (Ps 37:32)

Company in conspiracy (Ps 64:2)

Company in evilness and cruelty (Ps 71:4)

Sometimes the righteous envy the company of the wicked because it seems they have prosperity (Ps 73:3-5)

#### *Treachery requires plotting (4)*

Plots against the righteous (Ps 37:12)

Plots of injustice (Ps 64:6)

Plots of deception and evil (Prov 12:20)

Plots of iniquity and defrauding (Mic 2:1-2)

#### *Treachery causes fear (5)*

Fear of the influence of people (1 Sam 15:24)

Fear of rejection and ridicule (John 7:13)

Fear of people revolting (Matt 14:5)

Fear of people's opinions (Matt 21:26)

### Remembering the Incident of the Anointing (Matt 26:6-7)

#### *An anointing at an unusual place (6)*

An unusual place, but Jesus is always willing to be with and help the sick (Matt 8:2-4)

An unusual place that many times was criticized because of who was there (Luke 7:34-37)

An unusual place, but Jesus had to go to places where He could seek and save the lost (Luke 19:7-10)

An unusual place that helped identify the Deity of Jesus (Matt 11:2-6)

#### *An offering of anointing above and beyond (7)*

An offering beyond ability (2 Cor 8:3)

An offering that was all one had (Mark 12:43-44)

An offering that is given, even though it is the last (1 Kings 17:8-13)

An offering of a life of service that is almost to death (Phil 2:29-30)

### Remembering the Indignation of the Anointing (Matt 26:8-9)

#### *An indignation using human logic (8)*

Human logic and wisdom comes from Satan (James 3:13-17)

Human logic causes us to be carnal minded and immature in God's word (1 Cor 3:1-4)

Human logic causes envy (1 Tim 6:3-5)

Human logic hinders our spiritual growth (1 Peter 2:1-3)

Human logic tries to use persuasive words that have no power (1 Cor 2:3-7)

Human logic is foolishness in God's sight (1 Cor 3:18-20)

Human logic causes our minds to be futile and darkened which in turn makes us into fools (Rom 1:21-22)

#### *An indignation over the motive is defensible (9)*

A motive that was not selfish (James 4:3)

A motive that lays treasures in heaven (1 Tim 6:17-19)

A motive of delighting oneself in God (Ps 37:4)

A motive of being a living sacrifice (Rom 12:1)

### Remembering the Implication of the Anointing (Matt 26:10-13)

#### *An implicated anointing accepted and honored (10-12)*

Accepted because it is done willingly (2 Cor 8:12)

Accepted because it offered right (Gen 4:3-7)

Accepted because of giving out of love (Eph 5:1-2)

Accepted because of sacrificial giving (Phil 4:16-18)

Accepted because of steadfast faith (2 Tim 4:6-8)

Accepted because of being in the household of God (1 Peter 2:5)

#### *An implicated offering rewarded (13)*

Rewarded because of being generous (Ps 112:5-6)

Rewarded by the commendation of God (2 Cor 10:18)

Rewarded because it survived the test (1 Cor 3:13-14)

Rewarded because of giving in secret (Matt 6:2-4)

Rewarded because of providing for God's people (Matt 10:42)