



Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor." But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

- Matthew 26:10–13

DEVOTIONAL

A woman anoints Jesus with costly ointment, and people call it wasteful. Jesus calls it a good service, beautiful even. That difference matters.

I wonder what I label waste when God calls it love. Time spent with someone who is lonely. Tears. Tenderness. A gift given with no guarantee of return. The world loves efficiency; Jesus loves presence.

This moment sits right before betrayal and arrest, which is striking. It is as if Scripture is saying, "Don't let hardness have the last word. Love is still worth it, even here, even now."

The woman does not get a name in Matthew's telling, but Jesus promises she will be remembered. That is not a small thing. Love offered at the right moment, with an open hand, is never meaningless, even when the people around you are rolling their eyes.

I wonder what I need to pour out in gratitude. I wonder what I have been holding back.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Do one "beautiful thing" today that resists being measured. Write a note, make a meal, sit with someone, offer your full attention to something that cannot pay you back.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, keep my heart from shrinking. Teach me to love with courage and tenderness. Help me offer what is beautiful, even when the world calls it foolish. Amen.



[View this email in your browser](#)

Copyright (C) 2026 Havenwood Presbyterian Church. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

