



TREASURE OR WASTE?

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U7#3 1st-3rd Grade • Feb.4, 2024

Concept

The reality of Christ's love compels believers to commit all to Him.

Goal

Students will learn the contrast between Mary's response and the responses of others to Jesus' love. They will consider the reality that their life reflects the depth of their gratitude for Jesus' love and be encouraged to love Him with all their heart.

Passage

John 12:1-8

Key Verse: "... where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown butcher paper, 3'/class • <i>Large printed key verse</i> • Paper hearts from Activity Station in box lid or basket • Glue sticks <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd-Jones</i> <p>Optional Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adam Raccoon at Forever Falls, Glen Keane</i> 	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red paper hearts, 1/student • Markers • Shallow box, lid, or basket • Glue Sticks, several • 10" squares of fabric, 1 square/student • Narrow ribbon, 6"/student • Cotton balls, 4/student • Perfume • Gift tags, 1/student

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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Those who followed Jesus' ministry were polarized to further extremes by the event recorded in John 12:1-8, Mark 14:3-11 and Matthew 26:6-16. The scene occurs two days before Passover, thus during the last week of Jesus' earthly life, in Bethany at the home of Simon the (former) leper. Mary, Martha and Lazarus, whom Jesus raised, were all at this dinner. These three had experienced Jesus' love in miraculous ways. Mary responded to that love by anointing His feet with precious oil. It was customary to anoint the head and feet of honored guests with oil after washing as a sign of love and respect. In other contexts anointing signified chosen of God and was used in the ordination of priests. "Spices and ointments were quite costly because they had to be imported. Frequently they were used as an investment because they occupied a small space, were portable, and were easily negotiable in the open market. Mary's offering was valued at three hundred denarii (v.5), approximately a year's wages for an ordinary workingman. Perhaps it represented her life savings. She presented it as an offering of love and gratitude, prompted by Jesus' restoration of her brother to the family circle. Wiping his feet with her hair was a gesture of utmost devotion and reverence. The penetrative fragrance of the ointment that filled the house told all present of her sacrificial gift... His remonstrance over the gift of the ointment revealed that he [Judas] had a sharp sense of financial values and no appreciation of human values. Pouring the ointment on Jesus seemed to him an economic waste. Mary, on the contrary, was the only one who was sensitive to the impending death of Jesus and who was willing to give a material expression of her esteem for him... The contrast of the attitude of Mary with that of Judas is unmistakable. Mary offered her best to Jesus in sacrificial love; Judas was coldly utilitarian. Jesus interested him only as a ladder for his ambitions." [1]

This polarizing event exposed the heart of Mary as a lover of Jesus who held back nothing to honor Him. It also exposed the heart of Judas as a self-serving thief who recognized Jesus' value only as a means to further Judas' agenda. Others in the Mark account paid lip service to Jesus' agenda by the suggestion of giving to the poor because they resented Mary's lavish gift.

[1] Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 9, Frank E. Gaebelein, editor, 1981, Zondervan Publishing Co., p. 125.

Set Up

Use masking tape to hang the brown butcher paper on the wall or magnets to hang on the whiteboard.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity stations

- **Game Objects for Game**
 - **Instructions:** Give each student a heart and have them draw pictures of things they value/treasure. They can decorate or embellish the pictures in any way they wish. Write their names on the back of the heart. When they are finished have them put the hearts in the provided box lid.
 - **NOTE:** Because this will be used in the relay, each student will have to make one.
- **Craft – Perfume Sachets**
 - **Instructions:** Give each student a square of fabric, 4 cotton balls and 6” of ribbon. Spray the cotton balls with perfume. Put the cotton balls in the center of the fabric and bring the corners of the fabric together. Tie the ribbon around the fabric just above the cotton balls. Put a gift tag on the ribbon and tie it in a bow.
 - As students work on this craft discuss that when we value someone we want to show them love. They will learn about a woman who showed Jesus her love by pouring perfume on Him. The students can give this sachet to their mothers or someone they love.

Introduction Lg. Group

When you came in to class, you drew pictures of things that you treasure. What does it mean to treasure something? (It means to value, love or think something is important or special.) What are some of the things you value? (Allow students to respond.) Why are those things important or special to you? (They make you happy, friends value same things, etc.)

Transition

Let's play a game with the heart pictures you made. As we play the game, we will make a poster with the pictures of the things you treasure or value.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Game -- Treasure Relay

Instructions: Divide the class into teams and have them line up at a starting line. Put the box lid of pictures and glue sticks on a chair 3' from the starting line. At the signal, the first student on each team will go to the box of pictures and find their picture. Then they turn to face their team, show the picture and tell why they treasure the pictured item. They will grab a glue stick and glue the picture to the butcher paper. Then they go back to the line to pass on the glue stick to the next student.

Learning Activity#1 Continued

Transition

Lesson Lg. Group

Debrief

Our key verse today is "... where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). The hearts you made are a picture of this verse. It says that we love those things that we treasure or think are important. And when we love something, we think about it all the time. Right?

We are going to learn about a woman named Mary. Listen to see if you can figure out what Mary treasured or loved the most.

Instructions: Read "Washed with tears," pp. 280-285, Jesus Storybook Bible.

Hmmm... what do you think about that? Mary dumped a whole bottle—not just a few drops—of very precious, expensive perfume on Jesus. This whole bottle was worth a lot of money. Jesus said what she did was a good thing. But she dumped out this expensive perfume and nothing could be done with it besides wipe it away. Does that seem like a waste to you? What would you think about someone who spent all their money on something to give Jesus? What if they spent as much as a giant, flat screen TV with a Blu-Ray player, a new laptop computer and all the video games you have ever wanted? Can you imagine that?! Would you think that person was wasting his or her money? Why? (Get responses.)

Good News

Why was Mary willing to give her most valuable possession to Jesus? Mary knew Jesus. When she had the chance, she sat at His feet and listened to everything He said. Jesus raised her brother, Lazarus, from the dead. She saw Him do great miracles and saw Him love people. The more she knew Him, the more she wanted to know Him. She wanted to know Jesus more than anything else. She knew she was a sinner and that Jesus came to rescue her from her sin. So she treasured Jesus and wanted to give Him everything she had. What about you? What do you think about Jesus? Do you know that Jesus loves you so much that He died on the cross to pay for your sin? Do you know that Jesus wants to forgive you for all your bad choices, your sins? Do you know you can be God's friend now and go to heaven to be with Him forever after you die? If you don't know Jesus yet, the first thing you need to do is tell Him that you want to know Him and want Him to rescue you. When you do that you become His friend. Then you can get to know Him like Mary did. And, like Mary, the more you get to know and treasure Him, the more you will love Him.

The so-called important people thought Mary wasted all that precious perfume on Jesus. What do you think they treasured? (They treasured money, themselves.)

Lesson Continued

Transition

Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

Optional Activity

Our key verse is "... where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). This means that we will spend our time, money, and thoughts on the thing we love the most. Because Mary wanted to give her most valuable possession to Jesus, we know that she loved and treasured Him. Mary's treasure was Jesus so that is where her heart was.

Let's get into small groups.

Discussion Groups

- What is the key verse? What does it mean? Let's look at the pictures you put on your hearts. How much do you think about all the things you value? Why do you think the Bible says that your heart will be where your treasure is?
- What do you think about Mary's choice to give Jesus her most precious treasure? Why did she give it to Jesus?
- Do you ever think about how much Jesus treasures you? (So much that He came to this earth and gave His whole life, died for our sins.)
- Have you ever loved another person so much that you wanted to give them everything you treasure?
- Have you ever worked to earn money and given it away or bought something for someone else? What did you think/feel about it? Were you glad you did it?

Mission Prayer: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign.

Let's pray now. Let's ask Him to help us know Him so we want to give away more and more of ourselves and what we have so others can know Him, too.

Story – Adam Raccoon at Forever Falls

Instructions: Read the story and discuss the things that keep us from fully committing ourselves to Jesus.