**“The King’s Passion: What is Jesus Worth?”**

**Matt. 26:1-16**

**(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 7/13/25)**

 The teaching is done. The cross beckons.

 Today’s lesson is about one of Jesus’ last stops on that journey to the horrible, wonderful cross. The main characters are the scheming religious leaders, Judas the betrayer, and a woman with an extravagant gift. The thesis? Jesus is worthy of our ALL. All of us testify with our lives what Jesus is worth to us. What is He worth to you?

 Jesus is not a victim of circumstances here. He is orchestrating all of these events for the glory of God the Father and for the benefit of His people. This lesson talks of God’s **providence**, a sinister **plot**, some costly **perfume**, and an evil **pretender**. In this lesson we see that God directs history in precisely the way He intends for His glory. There are no circumstances! This is Divine **Providence** in action. Jesus set in motion His own death for sinners, willingly, voluntarily, and eagerly. It is why He came into the world: to die for His people at this precise time, during Passover. Part of Passover was remembering the sacrificial lambs whose blood spared the Israelites in Egypt centuries earlier. The blood typifies the ultimate Passover lamb, Jesus. His blood alone delivers you from sin’s curse and sin’s power over you. In His death, the wrath we deserve is placed on Him. His sovereign **providence** is for you and for His Father’s glory. Amen!

Remember: nothing occurs outside of the sovereign **providence** of God. Remember and take heart! He is in charge of every last detail.

 The **plot** involved the chief priests and elders. These wicked men did not value Christ at all. To them, Jesus was an obstacle to their control. But Caiaphas’ scheming could not override God’s sovereign timing. The lives of these evil men testified to what was in their hearts. But Christ’s purposes are never thwarted by evil (Acts 4:2-28).

 And now, the **perfume**. To Mary, Jesus is more precious than this costly ointment. Her heart is overwhelmed and overflowing with gratitude for what Jesus has done for Lazarus and for her. When Mary anointed Jesus with rare and valuable **perfume**, she declared His worth as best she knew how, disregarding the pragmatic protests of other disciples.Through Jesus, sin’s curse has been broken in her life. Her sins were forgiven forever! With Mary, you can say, “I am clean!” Gratitude produces a personal, costly, sacrificial, joyous life poured out for Him (Col. 3:17). You were desperately needy, and now you are forgiven! Hallelujah! (Eph. 2:12-13)

 The disciples said, “Why this waste?” It made no earthly sense to them. But these same disciples would learn from this and go on to be a fragrant aroma for Christ (2 Cor. 2:15-16). A life that declares Christ’s worth is costly and complete, not partial and pragmatic. A life that declares Christ’s worth is often misunderstood and ridiculed. Live it anyway! This **perfume** is to “prepare Me for burial,” said Jesus. Jesus never forgets the good works His people do simply out of love and devotion to Him.

(Note: Matt. 26:9-11 is not saying to disregard the poor. Jesus is simply saying that there will be other opportunities to help the poor after this dinner.)

 Judas, the **pretender**, spent three years of his life playing the part of a devoted Christian. He finally realized that Jesus was not going to be his earthly “meal ticket.” Judas was the ultimate materialist, the ultimate pragmatist. Neither a materialist nor a pragmatist can adequately live a life that declares Christ’s worth. What is exposed is the stark difference between living for self-glory and living for God’s glory. What is Jesus’ worth for you? Do you declare His worth with how you live your life every day? Will you?

**QUESTIONS**:

1. How does one’s life show she values Jesus?
2. What is Jesus doing in this lesson (read Mark 14:3)? What does this tell you about His sovereignty? His love for the Father? His love for His people?
3. Do Mary’s actions seem extreme to you? Explain.
4. What phrase describes Judas’ heart in this passage? What idols or desires might tempt us to “trade” Jesus for something else?
5. (personal) What might “costly gratitude” look like in your life right now?

**“I Surrender All” (Van DeVenter)**

 All to Jesus I surrender,

 All to Him I freely give;

 I will ever love and trust Him,

 In His presence daily live.

 **Refrain:**

 **I surrender all,**

 **I surrender all;**

 **All to Thee, my blessed Savior,**

 **I surrender all.**

 All to Jesus I surrender,

 Humbly at His feet I bow;

 Worldly pleasures all forsaken,

 Take me, Jesus, take me now.

 All to Jesus I surrender,

 Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;

 Let me feel the Holy Spirit,

 Truly know that Thou art mine.

 All to Jesus I surrender,

 Lord, I give myself to Thee;

 Fill me with Thy love and power,

 Let Thy blessing fall on me.