



THE CHURCH AT ELLERSLIE
SUNDAY SERMON NOTES

ERIC LUDY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019

SMASHINGLY GOOD NEWS

a reminder of the proper response to the grandeur of Christ



The Significance of a Singular Fleshly Action in History

The pistol shot of Gavrilo Princip

The Significance of a Singular Spiritual Action in History

The smashing of a jar by Mary of Bethany

Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her. Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.

Matthew 26:13-15

What Did This Woman Do?

She gave a startlingly clear picture of the proper human response to the grandeur of Christ

Faith

What is it? How does it work?

... without faith it is impossible to please Him (God) ...

Hebrews 11:6

First, what is it?

- A.W. Tozer - the gaze of the soul upon God
- Dr. Irwin Moon - the chair

- Bruce Olson - the hammock strings
- Pulling a Mary of Bethany

How does it work?

It's made up of two soul operations, that when combined create a unique and ready atmosphere for spiritual revolution in the inner man.

1. Repent (an action of denial, a letting go, a giving over, a turning away)
2. Believe (an action of acceptance, a grabbing hold, an allying with, a turning toward)

Illustrations of the Two “Faith” Actions Working Together

- The Grip of the Monkey
- The Cup full of Dirty Water

Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent, and believe in the gospel.

Mark 1:14-15

Faith Needs Something in Order to be Faith

*It needs an object of faith;
It needs something to look upon and consider impressive;
It needs something to trust, something to put its confidence in;
It needs an object of salvation;*

The Girl and Her Treasure

The beautiful picture of Faith in action

And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He (Jesus) sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask (jar, container) of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask (jar, container) and poured it on His head.

Mark 14:3

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment.

John 12:3

The Indignation of the Onlookers

But, that spikenard is some valuable stuff!

And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made?

Mark 14:4

Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

John 12:4-5

What is Spikenard?

The Healing Juice - Nardos

Spikenard, the head of a fragrant East Indian plant, which yields an oily juice of delicious odor which the ancients used (either pure or mixed) in the preparation of a most precious ointment. It is a healing juice, used for an extraordinary number of ailments. It is a skin tonic that helps to cure fungal and bacterial skin infections and provides relief from various types of inflammation. It helps cure constipation; it provides relief from insomnia, stress, and anxiety; it is a perfume and is also an effective deodorant. In addition to that, it treats allergies, fevers, hemorrhoids, angina pain, and varicose veins. This healing juice aids in cell regeneration, the healing of wounds, the circulation of blood and lymph, and the secretion of hormones and enzymes. It's the cure-all substance.

A Quick Lesson in the Greek

Three Words to Help us Understand Faith

Introducing Mary of Bethany and Her Treasure

- Mary had something quite special in her possession . . . a big jar of very expensive healing juice

- This big jar of very expensive healing juice was the ideal thing to keep stowed away in her pantry. For if ever she fell upon hard times, she could always sell her extremely valuable healing juice in order to survive. So, without even knowing it, she put her trust in this big jar of very expensive healing juice.

Greek Word #1 - Pistis (noun) πίστις

translation = **faith**

*Mary had **faith (pistis)** in her big jar of very expensive healing juice.*

- Mary was introduced to Jesus Christ. When she saw Jesus, she realized that HE indeed was the proper object of her faith. So, she believed in Jesus Christ.

Greek Word #2 - Pisteuō (verb) πιστεύω

translation = **to believe** (it's the action of faith)

*Mary, in seeing the ability of Jesus to save her, **believed (pisteuō-ed)** in Him and trusted that He, indeed, was her salvation.*

- Mary realized that to believe in Jesus, she needed to give up her trust in her big jar of very expensive healing juice and transfer all of her confidence to the Master of her salvation.

Greek Word #3 - Pistikos Nardos (adj + noun) πιστικός νάρδος

translation = **the object of one's faith** (the expensive liquid in which one trusts)

- Mary broke open her big jar of very expensive healing juice on the head and feet of Jesus. She gave up her soul allegiance to her previous **pistikos nardos** and transferred her loyalties to a new **Pistikos Nardos**.

The Healing Juice of Heaven

The Blood of Jesus

And He (Jesus) took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:27-28

What is the precious Blood of Christ for?

It's for **atonement** for sin (Romans 5:11); a **propitiation** (Romans 3:25); it for our **justification** from sin (Romans 5:9); for the **forgiveness** of sins (Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14, Hebrews 9:7); for the **remission of sins**. (Matthew 26:28, Romans 3:25, Hebrews 9:22); for the **cleansing, washing from all sin** (1 John 1:7, Revelation 1:5, Revelation 7:14); or the **purging of our consciences** (Hebrews 9:14); for **peace** (Colossians 1:20); for **reconciliation** unto Christ (Colossians 1:20); for **righteousness** (Romans 3:22, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Philippians 3:9); for the purpose of **saving us from the wrath that will come** (Romans 5:9); for the **destruction of the devil** (Hebrews 2:14); for **overcoming the Devil** (Revelation 12:11); for **redemption**, eternal redemption - for **the purchase of our very beings** (Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14, Hebrews 9:12, Revelation 5:9, Acts 20:28); for the purpose of giving us **life within, eternal life** (John 6:53,54); for the **bringing back to life** (Hebrews 13:20); for **sanctification** (Hebrews 10:29; Hebrews 13:12); for **spiritual and physical healing** (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24); for **boldness to enter in to the Holy of Holies**, the very presence of God (Hebrews 10:19); for the purpose of enabling us to make our daily, hourly, minute-by-minute **home in Christ Jesus** (John 6:56)

Jesus Points to Mary's Action

What did this woman do? She showed us how faith works

It's not pouring out earthly spikenard that saves. It's faith that saves. It's believing that Christ is our rightful Pistikos Nardos that truly supplies us salvation. And when we see Jesus as our lone source of Salvation, like Mary, we will gladly grab our jar of earthly spikenard and, as an evidence of our faith, repent of putting our confidence therein, and pour it out upon Him as an offering of worship.

The First Adam's Failure

We are IN Adam's Failure

We are born clinging to our very expensive big jar of earthly healing juice

The Triumphant Return of Faith

Understanding “Fact, Faith, and Experience”

The Promiser

- He Cannot Lie (Titus 1:2)
- He Will Not Change (James 1:17)
- He is the Same Forever (Hebrews 13:8)
- He is Eager to Answer (Luke 11:13)

The Spiritual Growth

Don't live your Christian life without it!

Watch what my God will Do!