

GREG'S NOTES

A NEW BEGINNING TEACHING OUTLINES

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NO REGRETS

Matthew 26

We all know what it means to waste. We waste time. We waste resources. Some people even waste their lives. Here in Matthew 26 is the story of a woman who was accused of wasting, but in reality she was doing just the opposite. She was unfairly criticized by others, but she was only concerned with the opinion of her Savior. It is the story of Mary, who poured expensive perfume on Jesus to show Him her adoration and to anoint Him for His burial.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. **We should only be concerned with the approval of One.** What is more important? The approval of people or the approval of God? We may answer quickly, but does our lifestyle reflect that answer?
2. **We should spend time judging our own motives instead of the motives of others.** Like Judas, we can jump to conclusions about the actions and motives of others, when really we should be introspective in examining our own thoughts and deeds.
3. **We should evaluate what is most precious to us.** The value of a gift is not determined by its price tag, but by what it costs us personally. Many people strive to give God the bare minimum. Mary's gift was not only generous, but sacrificial.
4. **We should do what we can.** Just as the Bible says, "She did what she could," we should pursue a life of faithful service to God's kingdom. The world may see it as a waste, but God doesn't. Nothing is ever wasted if it is done with the right heart and for God's glory.

RELEVANT REMINDERS

- It's interesting to think that not every miracle, teaching, or action of Jesus is found in the gospels. We are told in John 21:25 that if all the things that Jesus did were written down, the whole world could not contain those records!
- Many times, those who complain the loudest do the least, and those who complain the least do the most.
- Mary perceived what many of the other disciples didn't. She understood the brevity of Christ's life and she seized the moment to tell Him how she loved Him. Is there someone you love deeply? Tell them now, before your opportunity to do so passes.

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APPLICABLE ACTIONS

The first-century Christians changed their world in bold ways. Mary worshiped with adoration, devotion, and abandon. God told Phillip to go into the desert and he just went without question. God told Peter to take a crippled man by the hand and pull him to his feet, and Peter would do it. They took risks. When was the last time you took a risk for the kingdom of God? Follow their examples and do what you can. You will have no regrets.