

MAKING AN IMPACT

Matthew 26:1-13

- Today we begin the **CHALLENGING TIMES** series where we are learning from the challenges Jesus faced in the last days before His death and resurrection.
- *“Jesus . . . said to His disciples, ‘As you know, Passover begins in two days, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.’ At that same time the leading priests and elders were meeting at the residence of Caiaphas, the high priest, plotting how to capture Jesus secretly and kill Him.”* (Matthew 26:1-4)
- **My biggest challenges in the past year have been _____**

- **Even in challenging times we can make significant impacts for good and for God.**
- Jesus - *“Wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman’s deed will be remembered and discussed.”* (Matthew 26:13)
- **The woman in our story made an impact on Jesus and others there that day.**
- **What does it take to make a lasting impact in the eyes of the Lord?**

Making A Lasting Impact Requires:

DEVELOPING A FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS

- The woman in our story had a friendship with Jesus (John 12:1-8).
- Everyone needs good and godly friends in their lives (Proverbs 18:24, 27:17), but the very best friend we can have is JESUS.
- We develop a good friendship with Jesus by spending time with Him.
- *“Jesus and the disciples . . . came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what he taught.”* (Luke 10:38-39)
- We deepen our friendship with Jesus by valuing what He values.
- *“Whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please Him. For we must all stand before Christ to be judged.”* (2 Corinthians 5:9-10)
- We make our friendship with Jesus really strong by obeying Him.
- Jesus – *“You are My friends if you do what I command.”* (John 15:14)
- **What kind of friendship relationship do I have with Jesus, and what are some steps I can take to strengthen my friendship with Him?**

Making A Lasting Impact Requires:

DEMONSTRATING OUR LOVE FOR THE LORD

- *“While Jesus was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it over His head.”* (Matthew 26:7)
- **When we really love the Lord and are grateful to Him for what He’s done for us, we will want to generously give Him the best that we have.**
- **We should love the Lord enough to give Him the Time He deserves.**

- *“When Daniel learned that the law had been signed, he went home and knelt down as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done, giving thanks to his God.”* (Daniel 6:10)
- *“Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”* (Hebrews 10:25)
- **We should love the Lord enough to use our Abilities to serve Him and others.**
- *“God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.”* (Romans 12:6)
- **Our abilities are a strong indication of what God wants to do in our lives.**
- *“Be sure to use the abilities God has given you . . . Put these abilities to work.”* (1 Timothy 4:14-15 LB)
- **In the Church we can serve in the Children’s, Community Compassion, Discipleship, Follow-up, Hospitality, Life Group, Music, Office, Teaching, Worship Tech, Youth Ministries, etc.**
- **We should love the Lord enough to give generously to support His work.**
- *“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.”* (Proverbs 3:9)
- **Tithing is giving the first part (or best) of our income to the Lord.**
- *“The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives.”* (Deuteronomy 14:23 TLB)
- **What am I doing with my time, abilities and money that demonstrates that I love and appreciate the Lord?**

Making A Lasting Impact Requires:

DARING TO BE DIFFERENT FROM THE CROWD

- *“The disciples were indignant when they saw this. ‘What a waste!’ they said. ‘It could have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor.’”* (Matthew 26:6-9)
- **Sometimes we will get pushback from people when we give our time, abilities or money to support the Lord’s work or when we live like He’s called us to live.**
- Jesus - *“Why criticize this woman for doing such a good thing to Me? You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have Me.”* (Matthew 26:10-11)
- **Jesus will defend us and bless us when we’re willing to be different from the rest of the people around us.**
- Jesus - *“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven . . .”* (Matthew 5:11-12)
- **In what ways does the way I live for and serve the Lord make me different than most professing Christians or the people of the world?**

Making A Lasting Impact Requires:

DOING WHAT WE CAN DO FOR THE LORD WHEN WE CAN

- Jesus – *“Leave her alone. . . . She has done what she could.”* (Mark 14:6, 8)
- **God is more interested in our availability than He is in our ability, and He will reward us in this life and the next life for our service and sacrifices for Him.**

- The Lord in Heaven – *“Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things . . .”* (Matthew 25:21)
- Jesus - *“Why criticize this woman for doing such a good thing to Me? . . . She has poured this perfume on me to prepare My body for burial.”* (Matthew 26:10-12)
- **Just a few days after this incident Jesus would be tried and crucified (Matthew 27), and several days later when some women came later to anoint Jesus’ body for a proper burial, His body was no longer in the tomb (Matthew 28:1-9).**
- Jesus - *“We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the One who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work.”* (John 9:4)
- **We are to take advantage of opportunities the Lord gives us in the present to minister to others, to give to His work, and to share our faith with others.**
- *“Make the most of every opportunity for doing good in these evil days.”* (Ephesians 5:16)

- **The woman in our story gave generously of what she had to the Lord because she was thankful that Jesus had raised her brother Lazarus from the dead (John 11).**
- ***What am I thankful for, and how do I show my gratitude to the Lord?***
- Jesus - *“Wherever the Good News is preached throughout the world, this woman’s deed will be remembered and discussed.”* (Matthew 26:13)
- **When we’re willing to generously give our time, talents, testimonies and resources to the Lord, we’re going to begin living a life of lasting significance.**
- **Our lives are a flask that needs to be broken and a treasure that needs to be given.**
- Paul - *“I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.”* (Romans 12:1 NIV)
- *“I’ve given myself – all that I am and have so that I am in no respect my own. I can challenge no right in myself in this understanding, this will, these affections. Neither have I any right to this body of any of its members. No right to these hands, these feet, these eyes, these ears. I have given myself clean away.”* (Jonathan Edwards – Princeton University/Leader of America’s First Great Awakening)

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

- **Why do you think that the woman in our story gave so generously to the Lord?**
- **Why do you think that some in the home who observed the woman’s actions spoke so harshly of her?**
- **Why do you think that Jesus was quick to defend the woman?**
- **What was it about the woman’s actions that caused Jesus to declare that what she’d done would be remembered eternally?**
- **What are some ways that I can and should be serving the Lord and supporting His work?**