

## Going to the Next Level

You are encouraged to read verses before and after the selected passages.

Sunday: Matthew 26:6-13 Jesus shown love by devoted follower.  
Monday: Mark 14:3-9 parallel passage. Disciples criticize the woman.  
Tuesday: Deuteronomy 6:3-9 Love the Lord your God with your being.  
Wednesday: Deut. 4:9 Guard your soul - don't forget what God does.  
Thursday: 1 Corinthians 6:17-20 Honor God with your body.  
Friday: Mathew 25:31-45 Serve Jesus by serving those in need.  
Saturday: Matthew 26:10 Do something beautiful for Jesus today.

### *This week's memory verse*

NIV Matthew 26:10 *Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me.*

### *Serving Jesus by Serving Others*

In Matthew 25:31-45 Jesus tells the disciples that they have made two huge mistakes: They haven't taken care of those in need, and by failing to take care of them, they have failed to take care of him. Do you get it? Jesus tells the disciples that they have made two huge mistakes: They haven't taken care of those in need, and by failing to take care of them, they have failed to take care of him.



The bottom-line “proof” of our love for Jesus is a surprising measurement. It's not found in the ways we have typically used to evaluate spiritual maturity. Proof of our love for Jesus is found not merely in attending church, reading the Bible, singing praise songs, or serving as an usher or an elder (although each of these activities is an important part of a growing spiritual life), but in loving and serving the sick, the poor, the weak, and the marginalized.

You can't physically give Jesus shelter, fix him a meal, or put a clean shirt on his back; you can't visit him in a prison cell or offer him a drink of water. But when you do it for them—for the least—you are doing it for him. And when you're not doing it for them, you're not doing it for him.

Kay Warren

As we Journey to the Cross this Easter season, ask yourself this question: Am I a giver or a taker?

Sermon Series: Journey to the Cross: How the last days of Jesus life can change yours.

Speaker: Dr. Bill Patterson

March 29, 2020

Sermon Notes



Big Idea: Jesus is worth paying the price.

Matthew 26:6-13

<sup>6</sup> While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, <sup>7</sup> a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

<sup>8</sup> When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. <sup>9</sup> “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.”

<sup>12</sup> When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. <sup>13</sup> Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

***Praying God's Word ~ Matthew 26:6-13***

*Experience the difference prayer can make.*

Take each issue and pray as it pertains to your life, then for the life of KEFC.

- Tell God you will take opportunities to use your home for ministry.
- Ask God for courage to make the decision for devotion to Jesus.
- Pray that you will never criticize or bother another who is serving Jesus while you do nothing.
- Ask God to help you understand the role material possessions are to play in our life.
- Pray that you will do something beautiful of Jesus.
- Praise God his Gospel is being preached the world over. Tell him you want to help.

***Personal application is important.***

***Discover how the following material can help you apply today's Scripture to your life and the life of KEFC***

The key idea in today's text is not about the extravagance and cost of the gift given, but the magnitude of the love this person had for Jesus.

What would you be willing to give to Jesus in appreciation of who he is and what he has done?

Taken differently: Is there one thing you would not want to give to Jesus?

“He is ungrateful who denies that he has received a kindness which has been bestowed upon him; he is ungrateful who conceals it; he is ungrateful who makes no return for it; most ungrateful of all is he who forgets it” (Seneca, *De Beneficiis* III.1).

How do you guard yourself from becoming ungrateful for what Jesus has done and is doing for you? For our church - KEFC?

Today's story starts with the hospitality of one man. Are you willing to open your house for ministry? If you have done so, what was it like for you, for your guest?

Rick and Angie were referred to in the sermon. He was the pastor of the International Church in Amman, Jordan for over a decade. She is a medical doctor. They prepared for ten years to serve Jesus. The cost of seminary and medical school was substantial.

How would you respond to those who would criticize them for giving up their “earning potential” to serve Jesus in the Middle East?

How do you guard your heart and tongue from critical words concerning the ministry of others?

Are you, like the disciples in this story, guilty of not doing anything to serve Jesus?

Jesus is on the journey to the cross. His purpose for coming to earth is soon to be realized. Salvation is about to be made available to all because of his death for our sin. The gospel and Mary's beautiful deed, the message of salvation and the response of gratitude for salvation received; these two must never be separated.

How might you respond with gratitude to Jesus this week?

How will your gratitude toward Jesus affect your world this Easter season?