

OUR BEST FOR CHRIST

"She hath done what she could." Mark 14:8.

Basis of this message is an event in the life of our Lord Jesus. Event occurred at Bethany in the home of Simon the leper. It was on Tuesday evening of the last week of His earthly life. Feast for Jesus was given perhaps by several in the community.

1. Simon was entertaining
2. Lazarus was feasting
3. Martha was serving
4. Mary was anointing Jesus' feet
5. Judas was criticising
6. Jesus was justifying

Mary went to the feast with a definite purpose in mind. At the feast she did something. Nothing unusual in merely doing something. All are engaged in doing something. Children, young people, and older people are no exception to the rule. As to the deeds, they are right or wrong, good or evil, righteous or unrighteous, just or unjust. Right philosophy of life is to be so busy doing good that there will be no time to be engaged in doing evil. "Be not overcome of evil." Mary did something for Jesus. Anointed His feet and wiped them with her hair. This was a deed for Jesus and not Lazarus, John, disciples, or Martha. Many have no desire to do anything for Jesus.

We can do so many things for Christ. Go for Him, preach for Him, teach for Him, and witness for Him. There is work for all. Moody preached on "Heaven." Next morning a wealthy church member came into his office and said "Mr. Moody, I want to ask you more about heaven. I have many questions in my mind about the place." Moody said, "I do not have time to answer questions now about heaven. I must be busy today serving needy humanity. I have a letter from a poor widow who has seven children and nothing with which to feed and clothe them. I want you to take her letter and supply the needs of the family. When you have taken them coal, food and clothing, I want you to read the N. T. and pray with them and then come back at six o'clock this evening and I will talk to you about heaven." He did so but could not pray aloud because his heart was too full. Came back and said, "I do not need any man to tell me about heaven. I have already found it. Heaven is found in doing something for others in the name and for the sake of Christ."

Mary did something for Jesus personally. She could not trust this deed to the hands of another person. She did it herself. It was against the customs of the day for a woman to go into a hall where men were feasting except for serving, but she went. Martha, Lazarus, John, but Mary could not trust others to do this deed for the Master. Did it with her own hands. Many things must be done by each individual for himself. In physical life, must eat, drink, sleep, rest and die for himself. In spiritual life, must have faith in Christ, trust Him for salvation, profess His name before men, and grow in grace and knowledge. No other person can take our place in judgment. "Every one of us shall give account of himself." Same principle holds in matter of Christian service. Must use own talents. Mary did her best for Christ. Text. This is the most complimentary language that ever came from the lips of Jesus. Why did she do what she did for Jesus? Not for fame; place in limelight; to have herself remembered; to win applause of crowd; but because of:-----

- a. Her grateful love for her blessed Lord
 - He had pardoned and put away her sins
 - He had raised her brother from the dead
 - He had shown great sympathy and affection for her and Martha
 - He had honored her family by His presence in their home
 - She wanted to do something to show Him that she was thankful
- b. Her great desire to honor Christ
 - She wanted to honor Him personally by pouring ointment.
 - Every drop of it was out of reverence for His personality.
- c. Her profound realization of His departure
 - Showed Him that she loved Him while He was yet alive

Mary loved Jesus more than she did any earthly possession and she was willing to give her very best for Him. Christ is worthy of our very best. Do we give Him our best? Do we do our best for Him and His cause? Have you done what you could for Him?
Illustration:

Mrs. Williams son married and was to leave for China. Day before left were to have family reunion. Before son got home mother was on porch weeping and working. Jerome said, "Mother let us not weep today. Brother decided to spend life in China as missionary. This is his last day with us before he leaves. May never see him again. But we must be brave and send him away with joy in his heart." She said, "I am not weeping because he is going. I only wish I had something to give him to make his home comfortable when he is located. I cannot do anything for him." He said, "Mother you have done everything for him. You gave him birth; cared for him when he was a child; helped him through grammar school, college, and seminary---have done everything for him." "Don't you think he is the best boy you have?" She said, "All of my boys are good boys, but THE BEST I HAVE IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR JESUS." Oh for a million mothers with this sentiment.

Girl came home from school and said "Teacher has requested dolls for poor children and I don't know which one of mine to give. Shall I give my BEST doll?" She selected her best one, slept with it, and next day gave it away. Was happy for it. Next Christmas best doll in city came to her. That is way it works. When we give our best for Christ the best will come back to us.

Mary won the praise of Christ. Her service was pleasing to Him, praised by Him, profitable to Him, proclaimed in the Scriptures, permanent as a memorial, and productive of love and service for Jesus. Her praise is universal and eternal. Mary gave her best for Christ and the best is now spoken of her. The best thing that we can do in life is always to do our best for Christ.