

Waste or Worth?

by Stephen Kaung

The sermon highlights the importance of valuing Jesus so highly that we are willing to give up something precious for Him, even if it seems like a waste to others.

Duration: 1:01:35

Scripture: Matthew 6:33, Mark 14:1, Mark 14:3-9, Luke 10:38-42, John 12:1-8, Romans 14:12, Ephesians 1:17-18

Topics: "Value"

Description

In this sermon, Brother Stephen Kahn discusses the story of Mary anointing Jesus with expensive ointment in Mark chapter 14. He emphasizes the principle of waste or worth and encourages listeners to understand the true value of pouring out everything upon the Lord. He shares a personal story of being despised by a professor but finding comfort in the fact that the Lord is worth it. He challenges listeners to consider whether their actions and choices are a waste or worth it in light of the gospel.

Transcript

This is Sunday afternoon, November 9th, 1975, in Richmond, Virginia. Ministry is being given through Brother Stephen Kong. I would like to read this afternoon a very, very familiar passage.

Mark, Chapter 14. The Gospel according to Mark, Chapter 14. We'll read the first nine verses.

Mark, Chapter 14, Verse 1. Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread was after two days. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how they might seize him by subtlety and kill him. For they said, Not in the feast, lest perhaps there be a tumult of the people.

And when he was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, as he lay at table, there came a woman having an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard very costly. And having broken the alabaster flask, she poured it out upon his head. And there were some indignant in themselves and saying, Why has this waste been made of the ointment? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.

And they spoke very angrily at her. But Jesus said, Let her alone. Why do ye trouble her? She has wrought a good work as to me.

For ye have the poor always with you, and whenever ye would, ye can do them good. But me ye have not always. What she could, she has done.

She has beforehand anointed my body for the burial. And verily I say unto you, wheresoever these glad tidings may be preached in the whole world, what this woman has done shall be also spoken of for a memorial of her. May we look to the Lord in prayer.

Our Father, we do thank thee for thy precious word. We ask thy Holy Spirit to breathe upon thy word and make it fresh and living to us this afternoon. We ask thee, Lord, to give us the spirit of wisdom and revelation and open the eyes of our heart that we may know, we may see thy word.

And through thy word see thyself. Oh, we do desire to see thee, Lord. We do desire to see thee as thy Father seeth thee.

We commit this time into thy hand for thy blessing. We ask in thy precious name. Amen.

The occasion was our Lord Jesus was at the table. And suddenly a woman came in with an alabaster flask of a full pound of pure milk. She broke the flask and tore the ointment upon the head of our Lord Jesus.

Because she did such a thing, some of the disciples began to murmur. And one of them became their spokesman. We are told in other gospels that it was Judas.

He spoke out. He just couldn't hold back anymore. He was very angry at what the woman had done.

He said, why this waste? You know, this is not only a question asked by Judas Iscariot 2,000 years ago. But this is a question that has been asked throughout the centuries. And this is the kind of question that we are asking every day.

Every day we are asking this question. Whether this is a waste or this is of value. If we consider it as a waste, we will not do it.

If we consider it as of worth, certainly we will do it. Our action, our life is governed by our sense of waste. Or put it positively, of worth, of value.

In a sense, you know, brothers and sisters, we are all born economists. We have within us an inborn sense of waste or value. And we are exercising that sense all the time.

Sometimes we look at people and say, well, look how they waste their money, how they waste their time, how they waste their energy, for something which we consider as worthless. Now, why do they do that? The reason is, they think that out of their spending, out of their giving all these things, they do derive some pleasure and satisfaction out of it. If there is absolutely no pleasure and no satisfaction, they will not waste their time, waste their money and waste their energy like that.

Everything we do, or everything we give up, is governed by that sense of waste or worth. Of course, one day, we will all be awakened to that ultimate standard of waste or worth. Today, each one of us has his or her own standard of waste or worth.

And that's the reason why your action and my action are different. This is the reason why your giving of something and my giving of something are different. Because we are governed by our different sense of waste or of worth.

But one day, as we stand before the judgment seat of Christ, and there we will be measured with an absolute sense of waste or worth. And when that day comes, it may come as a great surprise. You know,

our Lord Jesus was going to be crucified.

But before that happened, some of his friends entertained him in the house of Simon the leper. Of course, that house was in Bethany, that little village outside of the capital city of Jerusalem. We do not know who this Simon was.

Most likely, he was a leper before. Our Lord Jesus healed a number of lepers during his lifetime. And most probably, Simon was one of the lepers that was healed by the Lord.

Otherwise, nobody would dare to enter into his house and be entertained. Now, this Simon the leper, out of his gratitude to the Lord, he was willing to open his house to be used to entertain our Lord Jesus. This was his expression of his appreciation of Christ.

And that evening, you will find they made a feast for the Lord. And most likely, Martha was the one who prepared the dinner. We remember that Martha, Mary and Lazarus, they were orphans.

It was an orphaned house. They did not have much. They were poor.

And yet, they had such a love for the Lord. Certainly, Martha was willing to sacrifice themselves and to make a good dinner for the Lord. And I think probably some other people would help.

Because there was the Lord, there were the disciples and probably some other guests. Now probably, such a feast was beyond the means of Martha. But anyway, you find Martha prepared.

She prepared the dinner as usual. That was her way of expressing her love and her gratitude to the Lord. Lazarus was present, sitting with the Lord.

Now that was his way of expressing his love to the Lord. He did not know what to do. He could not do anything.

But at least he could make his presence as an honor to the Lord. He wanted to honor the Lord with his presence. So he was there.

And no doubt, when Mary prepared that dinner, Martha prepared that dinner, Mary must have helped. Otherwise, Martha would complain again. But there was no complaint.

So you find that the friends of our Lord Jesus, everybody was doing his or her best just to entertain the Lord. Everybody was doing something for the Lord. Either by opening the house, or by preparing the dinner, or by being present to accompany our Lord, everybody was doing something for the Lord.

And everybody seemed to be happy about it. You know, if you can do something for the Lord, certainly you'll feel happy about it. Because you'll find some way, even if it may be a very small way, to express your love, your gratitude, your thankfulness to the Lord.

So everybody seemed to be happy and contented. But there was one person who wasn't happy. And that was Mary.

Mary, as the others, must have done her part to make this entertaining our Lord a success. But after she had done all that she could, helping her sister and so forth, she was not satisfied. Her value of the Lord was so high.

She couldn't be satisfied by just doing that which is ordinary. She was troubled. She wanted to do more for the Lord.

But what could she do? There was nothing she could do. Then suddenly it dawned upon her that she had a pound of pure nard. Very costly.

Now how did she come to have that pound of pure nard? That pound of pure nard was worth three hundred denarii. And at that time, a man's daily wages was a denarii. And we must remember during those days, women were paid even less.

So for her to accumulate three hundred denarii, or in modern translation three hundred shillings, for her to accumulate three hundred shillings to buy a pound of pure nard, you do not know how many days she has spent in accumulating that money. What sacrifice she must have made. What giving up she must have done in order to gather that amount of money just to buy a pound of pure nard.

She must love that pure nard so much. She was willing to give up everything just to get that. So after she got it, she put it in an alabaster flask.

And she put that aside. Now we do not know why she did it. We do not know the real reason for it.

Most probably, she put that aside for the day may be of her marriage. Every woman is looking forward to the day when she will be married. After I came to this country, I heard that young women in this country usually prepare some kind of hope chest or something and put things in that, you know, with the hope that one day, you know, when marriage came to her, that these things might be used.

I wonder if that's the case. Very likely. Mary kept that alabaster flask of a pound of pure nard just for that day.

It was something that she reserved to be used on herself for that very special day. No doubt as a poor family, there must be time and time when they had hardly anything to eat. But it never entered into the mind of Mary to sell that pound of pure nard for any emergency reason.

No. This pound of pure nard was not to be touched. Nobody could touch that pound.

That was reserved exclusively for her day. And because of that, it was out of her mind. In other words, she didn't remember that.

You know? You remember and yet you don't remember. Why? Because your mind was set upon that thing. So it was somewhere hidden in her mind.

She didn't know what to do. She helped her sister, she did everything she could like the rest of the people and then she was dissatisfied and she just couldn't think out of what she could do more for the Lord. She couldn't.

And suddenly it came back to her mind. She had that pound of pure nard reserved. Oh, how it thrilled her heart.

When the thought came, why not gave that pound of pure nard to the Lord? Why not anoint Him with that pure? Did Mary have second thought? Anybody that had second thought would not be able to do such a thing. Why? Because, humanly speaking, it was a waste. It was a waste.

Here you'll find our Lord Jesus came and sat at the table and you go in and you pour a pound of nard upon His head. Now, what's the meaning of that? What's the meaning of that? It is true. According to the Jewish custom at that time, when the guest came in, they usually washed the guest's feet.

That's true. But more than that, they had a custom that the host would anoint the guest of honour with oil. Now, our Lord Jesus was the guest of honour.

So it wasn't really unreasonable to anoint the Lord with some oil. Now, that they did. But never poured upon the guest of honour with a pound of pure nard.

Well, you never do that. On the contrary, you almost spoil everything because with that pound of pure nard blowing all over His body. Now, what a nonsense that must be.

I do not know why Mary did that. If Mary really thought that, well, I had a pound of pure nard, Now, let me share with the Lord, because I love Him so much. She could just go in and open the flask, and you know the flask that the Jewish women store their ointment usually is a flask with a very narrow, long neck.

So when you open and pour it, it will come out drop by drop, you know. So she could very well just open the bottle and pour it a few drops upon the Lord. That should be enough.

That will be honouring the Lord, and that will be reasonable. But she didn't do that. She went in, she broke the alabaster flask, and let a whole pound just poured upon the head of the Lord.

What a mess. You know, according to the Old Testament, there was one occasion when such thing was done. When the high priest was anointed.

When the high priest was anointed, oil was poured upon his head profusely. They did not just drop a few drops of oil upon the head of the high priest. No.

They just poured the holy oil upon the head of the high priest profusely. So it rained down to his beard and rained down to his garment. It even reached to his skirt.

You see how much oil must be poured out. Now that was the only occasion such thing was done. And Mary did that.

She broke the alabaster flask and poured a pound upon the Lord. What a waste. What a struggle.

Now why did Mary do such a thing? She did that because she was directed by her sense of waste or worth. After she had done everything as the rest had done, she still felt that the Lord deserved much more. Her understanding of the Lord was most unusual.

Can it be she was thinking of one thing? She would soon lose the Lord. Yes. The Lord gave her brother back to her.

The Lord called Lazarus out of the tomb and give back to Martha and Mary. But when the Lord did that, he sighed, he wept. Can it be that Mary understood and stayed one thing? And that is, whatever the Lord had done to her or to her brother or whatever the Lord had done upon this earth, he was actually doing it by giving his life.

The Lord healed the sick. The Lord called back the dead. The Lord said, thy sins are forgiven.

But when the Lord did these things, he had Calvary in him. It is on the basis of Calvary that he can forgive our sins. It is on the basis of Calvary that he can call the dead out of the grave.

So put it in another way, whatever he has done upon us, he is given his life instead. It is not just doing a miracle. It is giving his own life.

And Mary, of all the disciples that followed the Lord for over three years, the Lord plainly told them, at least three times recorded in the Gospels, the Lord told them that he must go to Jerusalem, he will be killed, but on the third day he will rise from the dead. But the disciples, they just couldn't understand. Of all the followers of the Lord Jesus at that time, none understood.

But Mary knew that the Lord was going to die. And the reason why he was going to die is because of her and because of me. She knew that he would not have the Lord for long.

And she had to do something. She had to seize an opportunity to pour out something upon the Lord to show her love and her gratitude. It had to be something extra.

Brothers and sisters, oh, I do believe when that thought came to her, why not that pound of nard? I believe it thrilled her heart. She thought she couldn't do anything. But here was a pound of nard.

You know, it was almost like, you remember in the Old Testament time, the widow of the son of prophet came to the prophet Elisha and said, now we are so poor. You know, thy servant, the son of prophet died and then now our deckers are coming and wanted to take my sons away from me and we have nothing. And Elisha said, what do you have? You think, what do you have? Oh, she said, nothing but a pot of oil.

Mary had nothing. But that alabaster flask of a pound of pure nard, she had to pour it out upon the Lord. No second thought.

Why? Because she valued the Lord so high. To her it was not a waste. It was not a waste.

To her it is worth. It's worthwhile. It's worth it.

Even though the fragrance may just spread for a few hours during the time of the feast and then it's finished. That's her sense of worth. Dear brothers and sisters, who is the greatest waster in the whole world according to human measure? Our Lord Jesus.

He who was equal with God. He emptied Himself. He emptied Himself of His glory.

He emptied Himself of His honor. He emptied Himself of His power. He emptied Himself of His position.

He emptied Himself of the worships He received from all the angels. He emptied Himself of everything and He came to become a man. The lowest.

Even as a man He was obedient. He humbled Himself and was obedient to the Father even unto death and the death of the cross. I remember when I was young.

I read a little book. I don't know if any one of you have read that book. It was out of print for a long time.

It was a book with a title Why This Waste? And it was a book, a biography of a young doctor. I do not know him but I know his family very well. This young doctor was born and reared in Scotland.

Dr. Fischbacher. And he studied medicine. Just after she graduated from medical school he had the opportunity of being a junior partner to a famous doctor in Scotland.

So you can see that his future was bright. Was bright. But the Lord called him to China.

So he gave up everything and he came to China. But when he arrived at Shanghai, my native city it was during the time of war. So he was stranded in the foreign concession.

You know, in those days there were foreign concessions. So he was stranded in the foreign concession. He couldn't go anywhere.

And he stayed there for quite a long time. And then the board of China English Mission decided that he should go to Chinese-Tibetan, which is Xinjiang. You know, Xinjiang is way on the northwest of China.

Oh, to go to Xinjiang is to go to death. You know, so he was sent to Xinjiang. Well, he felt it was the Lord's will.

Because he couldn't move. He was stranded there. And since they decided that he should go there, he would go.

And he had to cross the Gobi Desert. I think you know the Gobi Desert, the famous desert in China. He had to cross the Gobi Desert on a truck.

And he designed his own truck because it has to be specially designed. He was a very clever man. So it was a specially designed truck.

And he drove that truck past the Gobi Desert until he arrived at Chinese-Tibetan, which is now called Xinjiang province. But as soon as he arrived there, there was civil war there. At that time, I think I was a high school student.

I still remember that war. There was a civil war there. There was fighting.

And he was the only doctor in that whole province. Only doctor. So his hospital was filled with wounded and sick soldiers.

He was the only doctor. He worked day and night. He neglected himself.

So finally, he caught pneumonia or something. And he died within a year. To be exact, I think, if I remember, it's about six months.

And he was buried in Xinjiang. So when this news came back to England, people began to ask this question. Why this waste? Here was a young man, well trained, with a great future.

And all right, if you feel called to go to China as a missionary, that's fine. But if you can work there, say, for 30, 40 years, then it is worth it. But he went there just a few months.

Why this waste? Oh, I remember our dear brother, Washman Lee, you know. He was a brilliant student in college. He was the chairman of the student body before he was saved.

Very active. And the Lord saved him. After he graduated, he felt called to serve the Lord.

So he served the Lord. And in his early zeal, you know, he neglected his body. And he worked very hard.

And in China, you know, for a person who had no connection whatsoever, no support and something, you know, and just trust the Lord and work for the Lord, it was almost unknown. So he suffered lots of hardship. And after a few years, he was a wreck physically.

And he told us one time he was on a boat coming from Shanghai back to his native city, Fuchao. While he was on the boat, he met his professor. One of his professors.

His professors looked at him, looked up and down, shook his head and said, what a waste. You can be a great man. You can be successful in any field.

And here you are. Nothing. Nobody.

And look at yourself. His professor scolded him. Despised him.

And our brother was a man. Human being. He was deeply hurt.

Deeply hurt. But then the Lord comforted him. And he came to the conclusion that it's worth it.

The Lord is worth it. Now, brothers and sisters, you find in our lives, we are always faced with this question. Is it a waste or is it worth it? We are facing that every day.

We are facing that at every turn. We are facing that at every event. At every action.

What is waste to us? And what is worth? You know, to the disciples, they thought it was a waste. And if you try to consider the whole matter with logic, it does seem to be a waste. If you want to honor the Lord in a special way, well, drop a few drops.

There's the customary way of doing things that's nice, commendable, everybody will understand. But doing it with such extravagance, well, our Lord Jesus is the greatest waster. God so loved the world that He wasted His Son on us.

And the Son of God so loved us that He's wasted everything and even His life on us. What a waste! But did our Lord Jesus consider what He did a waste? If He should consider it as a waste, where would we be? So far as God is concerned, so far as our Lord Jesus is concerned, He does not consider what He has done as a waste. He considers it as because the value of a soul is worth to Him for all that He has given up and all He has done.

He poured out His life for a soul. We are told in the Word of God that He poured forth His Spirit, He poured forth His soul as water. You know, ointment is costly and precious.

You just don't pour out ointment profusely. No, you just don't do it. A few drops here and there and that's it.

And that is enough. But water, well, that's cheap. When our Lord Jesus poured out His life, He poured out His life like water.

In other words, to Him, He did not hesitate at all. He just poured it out as freely, as generously, as profusely as possible because He did not consider His life as precious to Him. Why? He considered us so precious.

Mary was just following the footstep of our Lord. When she was doing that, she was not weighing it, she was not reasoning it, she was not trying to figure out whether in doing that she will have a right return or with interest. She was not thinking of these things at all.

When she decided to do that, all she saw was the Lord. That was all she saw. The Lord.

The Lord. The Lord was worth it. Was worthy.

No second thought is the Lord. That's her sense of value. And dear brothers and sisters, what is our sense of worth or of worth? The Lord said she has done what she could.

But remember, Mary never said that. Everybody thought they had done what they could. Simon the leper thought she had done what he could.

He opened the house. Martha thought she had done what she could. Prepare the dinner.

Lazarus thought he had done what he could. He was present with the Lord to keep him company. And probably the other people thought they had done what they could.

For I honour the Lord with their presence. Everybody thought they had done what they could. And because of that, they were satisfied.

Mary never thought she had done what she could. She always felt she hasn't done enough. Now dear brothers and sisters, that is love.

You remember the word of God said, Oh, no man anything but love. In other words, if you love, you always have the sense of not enough. If one day you feel it's enough, what? Love.

Dear brothers and sisters, do you ever feel that you have done enough for the Lord? Do you sometimes sit back and say, Well, I have done this, I have done that to the Lord, and that should be enough. Well, in one sense, yes, you have done a lot. In one sense, you have done maybe what other people haven't done.

But, so far as love is concerned, love never, never, has that sense of doing enough. You're always asking, Is there anything else I can do? Is there more I can do? Because the one whom I love is so worthy, I can never do enough for him. Oh, if the Holy Spirit would just remind me of something that I can do, what a thrill it must be.

And that's love. It is not for us to say, We have done what we could. It is for the Lord to say that.

So far as we are concerned, we always feel we haven't done what we should, what we could. And that's right. That's the right sense within us.

But thank God He comforted us and said, You have done what you could. Now, isn't that? To Mary it was not a waste. It was not extravagant.

She was just doing what she felt she should do. Because she had the Lord before her. But to the disciples it was too much.

Not just Judas Iscariot, but the other disciples, they all murmured, and they were angry at Mary. Were they jealous of her? Or because they just couldn't understand? Mary, if you want to do something, fine, go ahead and do it. You may do something more than we did, but not in that way.

No, that's a waste. You can sell that for three hundred denarii and give to the poor. What value that will be.

What a return that will be. You can help many poor people. Now, why do you do it on the Lord and just for a few hours and it's finished? What does it do good to the Lord? No lasting effect.

It's gone. Oh, what a waste. Now, that is their sense.

Now, how about the Lord? And here comes the verdict of the Lord. The Lord said, Let her alone. Why do ye trouble? She has wrought a good work as to me.

For ye have the poor always with you, and whenever ye would, ye can do them good, but me ye have not. You know, this incident concludes with a statement. And the statement was, Wherever these great tidings, wherever the gospel of Jesus Christ is preached throughout the world, what Mary has done will be mentioned as a memorial.

Wherever the gospel is preached, what Mary has done will be mentioned as a memorial of her. In other words, you'll find the gospel and what Mary has done are bound together. You cannot have the gospel without hearing what Mary has done.

Now, why? In the first place, what is the gospel? What is the great tidings? What is the gospel? The gospel is God so loved the world that He wasted His Son on us. That's the gospel. The gospel is Christ so loved the world that He gave Himself for us.

He literally wasted Himself. Everything, even His life, He just poured it all out on us. Now, that is the gospel.

When the gospel is preached, and when people have been touched by the gospel, when people have received the gospel, what should be the effect of such a gospel? The effect of such a gospel is because He has first loved me, I cannot help but love Him. Because He has poured out His life on me, I have to pour out myself on Him. Now, that is what Mary has done.

Dear brothers and sisters, if it doesn't happen in our lives, our reception of the gospel is faulty. There is something wrong. If we really know what the gospel is, if we really have received the gospel of Jesus Christ, what else can we do? Can we just do something on the surface? Can we just do something as everybody is doing and say, well, that I've done, I've done it, that's all, that's all.

That should be enough. Can we take such an attitude? Never. Never.

We are constrained by the love of Christ to feel that there must be something. How can I pour out myself? That pure lard, pound of pure lard really represents Mary. She broke herself as she broke the alabaster flask and poured out all that she was upon the Lord.

Nothing. Somebody said that pound of pure lard probably was Mary's dowry. You know, in the East, in the old days, no woman will, no man will marry a woman without a dowry.

You have to have a dowry. When anybody married a woman, they expected a dowry. If you have nothing, nobody will marry you.

And probably that pound of pure lard was Mary's dowry. And by giving it on the Lord, it means on the one hand, she took the Lord as her bridegroom. She gave up her hope of ever getting married.

She gave up her hope and she gave up everything because she had taken the Lord as her. Dear brothers and sisters, that's the sense of it, you know. That's the sense of it.

Not that in every case, you know, physically it should be so, but the spiritual sense is there. Is there. Poured it out.

Oh, brothers and sisters, why is it that the Lord said she has wrought a good work? What is good work? Good work is anything that is done according to the will. If you do something according to the will of God, that's good work. You know? That's good work.

And because Mary had done what was God's will. Oh, it wasn't something emotional at the moment, you know. It wasn't something that was decided so quickly and, you know, impulsively, you know, and then you regret afterwards.

It wasn't. It wasn't. She was doing the will of God.

The will of God. She has done a good work. And secondly, the Lord said she has done what she could.

The Lord gave her the credit. And finally, she did it for my burial. Of all the followers of the Lord Jesus, Mary was the only one who understood that our Lord Jesus will die.

And she wanted to anoint the Lord for her burial, for his burial beforehand. You know, afterwards, after the Lord died, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, they were rich people. So after the Lord died, they brought lots of spices and ointment to embalm the body of the Lord.

But it was a dead body. And then on the day of his resurrection, a few women brought spices and ointment to anoint the Lord once again. But they never had a chance to do it.

The Lord was resurrected. Mary was the only one who was able to prepare the Lord for his death and burial. The Lord said you have the poor always with you, but me you don't have always.

Now in one sense, the Lord is always with us. No doubt. The Lord said I will be with you until the end of the age.

The Lord is always with us. But in another sense, so far as our inner sense, our inner feeling is, oh the Lord is so precious. The Lord is so rare.

We may not have him seize upon every opportunity to pour it out upon the Lord. And you know dear brothers and sisters, from human viewpoint, Mary wasted that pure. But from divine standpoint, she hadn't wasted anything.

She hadn't. And who really wasted? Judas Iscariot. Because in John chapter 17, in our Lord's prayer, you'll find the Lord said, Father, all that thou has given me, I have kept them except that one, the son of perdition.

And the word perdition in Greek means the one who accused Mary as wasting was the very one who was the son of waste. This man. Now you remember, all the twelve disciples, when they followed the Lord, they had to give up a lot.

And no doubt, Judas Iscariot had to give up a lot for the Lord. Just to be his disciple. Now you cannot be his disciple if you don't give up something.

And Judas did. He thought at that time it was worth it. But after he followed the Lord for over three years, after the Lord has poured upon him grace after grace, love after love, and even to the very last, the Lord treated him as a respectful person.

Even at the last supper, no, not supper, at the last Passover, the Lord dipped the bread in the vinegar and passed to him, which was at that time the sign of honoring. But it was all wasted. What Judas had given up was wasted.

What the Lord had poured upon him was wasted. He just wasted his life, wasted the son of weight. What a contrast.

Oh, one day we will be surprised. What we think is wasted may be of worth. What we think is worthy may be of waste.

It therefore behoves us that we come to see the standard, God's standard of worth. Anything that is poured upon Christ, anything that is not unto Christ, but unto ourselves maybe, it's a waste. Judas was willing to leave everything to follow the Lord because he thought it was worth it.

When the Lord got the kingdom, he will be the minister of finance, secretary of treasury. It's worth it. But when he discovered that this didn't happen, he tried to get back his capital, 30 pieces of silver.

He wanted to salvage something out of what he had spent, you know. He was an economist. But even the 30 pieces of silver he couldn't keep.

He had to throw them away. Oh, brothers and sisters, what a lesson. Well, that whole incident demonstrates the principle of waste or worth.

And may the Lord give us a right sense of it. Shall we pray? Our Heavenly Father, how we praise and thank Thee for what Thou has recorded in Thy Word of what merit hath done. Thou art encouraging us to understand the real value that we may not in any way wasting away our life and ourselves into something that is not worth it.

Oh, Lord, Thou art the only worthy one. Oh, Lord, teach us how to pour out everything upon Thee because Thou art worthy. Oh, we worship Thee, Lord.

We ask in Thy precious name. Amen.

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