



Revealing Words Bible Study

“Beautiful Thing”

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In a quiet village called Bethany, nestled just outside Jerusalem, a dinner was underway at the home of Simon the Leper. Jesus reclined at the table, surrounded by His disciples and friends. The air was thick with anticipation—Passover was near, and tensions were rising. But in the midst of this gathering, a woman stepped forward with something extraordinary.

She held in her hands an alabaster jar filled with pure nard, a perfume so rare and costly it could have paid for a year’s wages. Without hesitation, she broke the jar and poured the fragrant oil over Jesus’s head. The scent filled the room, rich and overwhelming. But so did the voices of criticism.

“What a waste!” some muttered. “This could have been sold and given to the poor!”

Among the critics was Judas Iscariot, the treasurer of Jesus’s ministry. His concern wasn’t truly for the poor—it was for the money. His heart, tethered to greed, couldn’t comprehend the beauty of the moment. But Jesus did.

“Leave her alone,” He said. “She has done a beautiful thing to me.”

Jesus saw beyond the price tag. He saw love—extravagant, sacrificial, and prophetic. That perfume would linger. Through betrayal, torture, and crucifixion, the scent would remain. When Judas kissed Him in betrayal, Jesus still smelled love. When Pilate handed Him over, when the whip tore His flesh, when Simon carried His cross, when nails pierced His hands—He still smelled love. Even in His final breath, the fragrance of that offering filled the air.

This wasn’t just a gift. It was worship. It was a moment that provided love just before the greatest act of love in history was to occur.

Our Relationship with Money

1. How does your view of money influence your spiritual decisions and relationships?

2. Are there areas in your life where money has quietly taken control of your heart?

The Fragrance of Worship

3. What does Mary's act of pouring out the perfume teach us about sacrificial love?
4. Can you think of a time when you gave generously, not out of obligation, but out of love?

Discernment and Devotion

5. Jesus said, "You will always have the poor... but you will not always have me." What does this teach us about recognizing divine moments?
6. How can we develop discernment to know when to give extravagantly and when to give practically?

Judas and the Cost of Control

7. What warning does Judas's story offer about the dangers of serving money over God?
8. Are there areas in your life where greed or fear of loss might be hindering your generosity?

Creating Beautiful Moments

9. What would it look like for you to use your resources to create “beautiful things” for God’s Kingdom?

10. How can you begin to shift your mindset from transaction to transformation in your giving?