



## Revealing Words Bible Study

### “Beautiful Thing”

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In a quiet village called Bethany, nestled just outside Jerusalem, a dinner was underway. 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 feet (John 12:3). 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.” – Matthew 26:10

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 act went far beyond this moment. It would be a loving reminder to Jesus during the moments He would later encounter. This wasn’t just a gift. It was a form of worship and expression of love that would be a part of the story of eternal salvation for all humankind. It was a moment that was a reminder of love just before the greatest act of love in history was to occur.

## **The Fragrance of Worship**

1. What does Mary's act of pouring out the perfume (John 12:3) teach us about sacrificial love and its influence on others?
2. Can you think of a time when you gave generously, not out of obligation, but out of love?

## **Discernment and Devotion**

3. Jesus said, "You will always have the poor... but you will not always have me." (Matthew 26:11) What does this teach us about recognizing divine moments?
4. Are you currently giving out of obedience to the God's Word and the prompting of the Holy Spirit? How can you discern when to give extravagantly and practically?

## **Judas and the Cost of Control**

5. What warning does Judas's story (Matthew 26:14-16) offer about the dangers of serving money over God?

6. Are there areas in your life where greed or fear of loss might be hindering your generosity?

### **Our Relationship with Money – 1 Timothy 6:10**

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

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

### **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?