



Introduction:

You can find Pastor Mark's sermon notes [here](#)¹ or listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).²

Scripture:

Please turn to Mark 14:1-11 in your bible [or click here](#).

So What?

Why is it that we expect and applaud total dedication when it comes to our sports teams, but we frown on the same level of fanaticism when it comes to worshipping God? If we go “all in” to celebrate our favorite team, how much more should we go all in to celebrate and worship our Savior?

Don't let criticism keep you from demonstrating your commitment. Like Mary, go “ALL IN” in your devotion to Jesus Christ.

It's interesting that Jesus applauded two women who went “all in” in their worship of him. In Mark 12:41-44, Jesus praises the widow who gave her last two cents as she worshipped in the temple. In Mark 14:3-9, Jesus applauded Mary (cf. John 12:3) when she anointed him with the contents of an expensive jar of rare perfume. The spiced perfume was extremely costly, having been imported from India. The flask was possibly a family heirloom, perhaps part of a bridal dowry passed down from mother to daughter. The people who observed these events thought their sacrifices were foolish. They felt they should have paced themselves or at least used their resources in more productive ways. Jesus' own disciples were critical of what they considered to be frivolous expenditures. Yet Jesus lauded these two women and memorialized their gifts and dedication.

Rather than be deterred by the critics, we need to keep in mind that Jesus values and celebrates sacrificial commitment (6-9). Jesus commended Mary for her gift (6) because she had her priorities in the right order (7). Her anointing was timely and insightful as it prepared Jesus for his soon death and burial (8). Her gift would not be forgotten but would be celebrated every time the gospel was preached (9). Don't look for reasons to avoid commitment. Don't let criticism keep you from demonstrating your commitment. Like Mary, go “ALL IN” in your devotion to Jesus Christ.³

What Now?

1. Do you ever feel as though you have nothing to give that would honor the Lord? Mary did not have a large ministry. She was not one of the apostles. Yet, she committed herself to Christ and made it her priority to honor him. Her motive was to honor the Lord, and that pleased him. Whatever you do, do it with full commitment for the Lord in order to honor him.
2. Are you serving the Lord, yet facing opposition by others who feel that you are wasting your time or resources? It can be discouraging when others resist your efforts to follow, honor, and serve God, but remember who it is you are serving. When Mary's critics (his own disciples!) chided her Jesus rebuked them saying, “Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.” (14:6) When you face opposition, remember that the Lord is your defender, and that it pleases him when you seek to honor him rather than other people.
3. Do not let the evils of this world discourage you. Remember that Mary “did something beautiful” for Jesus in the midst of plots of murder and betrayal (14:1-2;10-11). Don't let the temporary evils of this world paralyze you from serving the Lord.
4. Helping the poor and needy are important, and as Christians we should do so. We want to remember, however, that even this is secondary to worshipping the Lord. Let us not become so busy doing good that we forget that we were made to worship.

¹ <https://wheelsms.wordpress.com/2016/02/21/are-you-all-in-for-jesus/>

² <http://www.firstcentralbaptist.com/sermons/gospelofmark.html>

³ This text is adapted from Pastor Mark's sermon notes.