

Date : 12 October 2025
Theme : Book of Mark - Servanthood.
Title : How do we value Jesus?
Passage : Mark 14:1-26.
Key verse : Mark 14:6 NKJV – “But Jesus said, “Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me.”

In Mark 14, just two days before the Passover, the Lord Jesus’s journey toward the cross drew near. He shared a meal with His disciples at Simon the leper’s house in Bethany. A woman approached and anointed Him with a costly alabaster flask of spikenard oil—an act worth more than a year’s wages. The disciples criticized her for what they saw as waste, but the Lord commended her for showing how much she valued Him.

How should we value the Lord Jesus? And why would we do so?

1) Value Jesus with **PURPOSE**: Doing good for Him.

“... She has done a good work for Me” v6

a) The woman’s purposeful act showed how she valued Jesus.

- i) Valuing Jesus involves being purposeful in 2 things:
 - Who we are doing for - Jesus.
 - What we are doing – good work.
 - The woman valued Jesus by anointing Him with expensive spikenard oil.
 - The disciples called it a “waste” on Jesus’ head, as if it was wasted on the ground.
- ii) Valuing Jesus purposefully regardless of others - how they see or what they say.
 - The woman continued without retaliation when the disciples criticised her sharply.
 - Her focus was on Jesus and what He said, not on others.
- iii) Valuing Jesus purposefully with “good work”.
 - “Good work” is focussed on Jesus as the receiving party.
E.g. when a husband values his wife, he gives her something that she likes.
 - Jesus saw the woman’s act as a “good work”.
“Good” in Greek = “Kalos”, which means beautiful. Jesus was pleased.

b) Application: Value Jesus by being purposeful.

- i) Have an attitude of showing Jesus that we value Him in church, when we sing, dance, or listen to the sermon. ☐
- ii) Do not take offense when others criticise us. Instead, focus on what matters to Jesus. ☐

2) Value Jesus with PREPARATION.

“... She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.” v8

a) The woman's preparation shows how she valued Jesus.

There were 2 key aspects to her preparation.

i) Thinking:

- What would be good to give to Jesus? It must be of substantial value.
- When would she raise enough money? Would Jesus still be around?
- Where would she find the best spikenard oil? Where would Jesus be?
- How would she give Jesus the oil? Just hand over the bottle? Or break it and pour on His head?

ii) Time & Effort:

- Raising the money by working, saving, thrifting, borrowing, or selling.
- Finding the best (spikenard) oil and purchasing it.
- Travelling to where Jesus was.

b) Application: Value Jesus by preparing for Sunday worship.

i) What will be good and valuable to give Jesus?

- Offer myself as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to Him. (Romans 12:1) ☐
- Offer my money. ☐

ii) Where will I go to worship? In-person or live stream? ☐

iii) When should I arrive to meet Jesus? When should I wake up? ☐

- Arrive 15 mins early to pray.

iv) How will I give to Jesus?

- Joyfully, through singing, clapping, raising hands, etc ☐
- Willingly, with my money. ☐
- Whole heartedly, giving attention and putting away distractions. ☐

•

3) Value Jesus with my POSSESSION or ability.

“She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial”
Mark 14:8

While hers was a personal act of sacrificial worship, the Lord Jesus interpreted her act of prophetic significance. She was, unknowingly, preparing Jesus' body for burial before His death. Jesus' commendation of her assured us that sincere sacrificial service offered on faith — would find eternal significance in God's plan...wherever the gospel is preached ...what she has done will also be told, in memory of her... Mark 14:9. The event also acknowledged Jesus' willingness to embrace His role to fulfil God's redemptive plan.

a) The woman gave her best to Jesus, showing how she valued Jesus.

i) High cost of one year's salary.

- It wasn't a token of appreciation (2 Samuel 24:24).
- Giving our best offering may cost us a lot. It is a direct expression of how much we value Jesus.

- ii) Spikenard is a very precious oil from a foreign country with very fragrant smell.
 - It is a luxurious item for the king. (Song of Songs 1:12)
 - Giving our best offering to the Lord is like a sweet fragrance that pleases him.
- iii) Alabaster jar was new, unopened and preserved the fragrance very well.
 - It needed to be broken for the oil and fragrance to be released.
 - The best offerings will involve a sacrifice of the best to the Lord - Not something already used or leftover.

b) **Application: Value Jesus by giving the best of my possession or ability.**

The woman gave her best at the critical moment before Jesus died.

- i) Will the church building project be the appropriate opportunity for me to give my best to Jesus, to build His house in Tampines St. 86? (Haggai 1:4) ☐
- ii) Give my best by using my time and talents to serve Jesus in various ministries, e.g. children's ministry, music, hospitality, etc ☐

4) **Why would we value Jesus highly?**

a) **The Lord's Passover Feast was intended for us.**

From the beginning, the Passover foreshadowed Jesus' grand plan of redemption, which He fulfilled by laying down His own life to save us from sin and death.

Aspect	The Passover (Shadow) Exodus 12:14	Jesus as the ultimate Passover lamb. (Fulfilment)
Problem	The Israelites were oppressed slaves in Egypt with no way of escape.	We are slaves to sin, leading to eternal death with no way of escape. We value Jesus because only He is ABLE to solve our greatest problem that none of us can solve.
Solution	The Lord provided the solution: Sacrifice of the Passover lamb	The Lord is the solution: Sacrifice of Jesus, the Lamb of God We value Jesus because He was WILLING to sacrifice for us, saving us from eternal doomed.
Type of sacrifice	Lamb must be spotless without defect.	Jesus is without sin. We value Jesus because only He is qualified and BORE the full weight of our sin.
Timing of sacrifice	Lamb selected 1 week ahead. Killed at 6pm on the 6 th day.	Jesus entered Jerusalem 1 week prior. Died at 6pm on the 6 th day. We value Jesus because He FULFILLED from start to finish as our Passover lamb.
Application of sacrifice	Blood of lamb applied on doorposts. Angel of death passed over the houses.	Blood of Jesus applied over believers. Eternal death passes over us. We value Jesus because it's by His FINISHED work , not by our works, that we are saved,
Effect	The lamb substituted the death for the Israelites' firstborns, while Egyptians' firstborns died. Israelites freed from slavery.	Jesus substituted death for his believers; Believers are freed from slavery from sin and death. We value Jesus because He SUBSTITUTED Himself for us .

b) The Lord instituted the Holy Communion

i) He introduced 3 great things for us. (v22,23,24)

- **The Bread:** Represents Jesus' body broken for us, signifying our redemption.
- **The Cup:** Represents Jesus' blood shed for us, ensuring our forgiveness.
- **The New Covenant:** Supersedes the old covenant (which we broke) that was sealed with blood of oxen. Now sealed with the blood of Jesus for us, the New Covenant can never be broken.

ii) Application: We value Jesus when we partake the Holy Communion.

It is only right that we partake the Holy Communion not in an unworthy manner, but with great reverence and deep appreciation for the Lord's body. (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

- **Remembering Jesus:** His blood and body sacrifice with sincere gratitude.
- **Reflecting on ourselves:** Our sins and confessing our need for His grace.
- **Responding to Him:** Because of His great love, we choose to love Him back.

Application: Personal Question

1. How much do I truly value Jesus?
2. How should I show value for Jesus, and what attitude change is required?