

# Walk to the CROSS

Pastor Hugh's Message Series Preparing You for EASTER, Sundays, 9 & 10:30am

**Sold Out (John 12:1-8)**

**Jn. 12:1-8**

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

<sup>4</sup> But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

<sup>7</sup> But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial." <sup>8</sup> For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

**Mk. 14:9**

<sup>9</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

- A. This morning I'm starting a 3-part message series related to Easter, and I want to walk you to the cross.

Just days before Jesus was crucified, one of the most stunning events in Jesus' ministry took place. It came out of nowhere. It took everyone by surprise (except Jesus). It caused jaw-drop by all of the disciples.

And most importantly, this event sets the bar high for what it means to follow Jesus.

- B. What event am I talking about?

I'm talking about 6 days before Jesus' crucifixion, when Jesus and his disciples were having supper at the home of Mary and Martha, & Lazarus. And Mary shows the world what it means to be "sold out" to Jesus.

I want to ask you, have you come to the point in your journey with Jesus, that you can say you are sold out to Jesus?

- C. I've heard it said that the Christian life is not a "buy out." It's a "sell out."

You're not trying to "buy" God's forgiveness. You're "selling out" because of God's forgiveness.

In other words, because of God's forgiveness, your life is sold out to Jesus. You're surrendered to Jesus. You're submitted and committed to Jesus.

Jesus is not just part of your life. **JESUS IS YOUR LIFE!**

- D. And what Jesus is looking for, what He died for, what He rose again for, is not people who are FROZEN CHOSEN or even people who are HAPPY CLAPPY. He's looking for people who are SOLD OUT.

You sold out your life to GET the life of Jesus.

You agree with the words of Jim Elliott who sold out to Jesus by going to the mission field to reach the Auca Indians and was speared to death (along with 4 other missionaries).

**PICTURE:** He famously wrote in his journal:

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

- E. And if there was any person in Jesus' ministry who in their journey sold out to Jesus, it was Mary, the sister of Lazarus.

And in fact, she shows us what it looks like to be "sold out" to Jesus.

And so, here are 4 marks of what it means for you to be sold out to Jesus.

## **1. IMMENSITY**

- A. Do you see the immensity of Mary's love for Jesus?  
<sup>3</sup>Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard,  
  
Pound of spikenard – we're talking extremely expensive perfume  
Its oil was extracted from the root of a plant grown in India and it was exported to Israel.  
And Mary has 12 ounces of this oil.
- B. Judas – states that it could have been sold for 300 denarii – 1 denarii was a day's wage – so this perfume conceivably cost one year's salary.  
\$59K – the median salary of the American worker  
  
BTW, at one time you could make up to \$25/hour working as a Manager at McDonald's (\$52k/year)
- C. Mary is taking out her \$59K flask of perfume, and she's going to pour it out on Jesus.

And that leads me to ask you this question:

Does your relationship with Jesus have such IMMENSITY?

Does your relationship with Jesus move you, mobilize you not just to do the ORDINARY, but to do the EXTRAORDINARY for Jesus.  
Not just what's GREAT, but what's AWESOME for Jesus.

- D. I've said this several times.  
We're getting ready to launch ministry in a new worship center. And we're expecting God to fill it up the church Easter Sunday.  
All of our teams up 'til now have done GREAT in their serving.  
But starting Easter Sunday, it's time to go from GREAT to AWESOME.

E. And God wants you to go from GREAT to AWESOME in your walk with Jesus.

In fact, Mary's walk started literally sitting at the feet of Jesus. But the more time she spent with Jesus. And the more she learned about Jesus. And the more she saw the heart of Jesus, she went from GREAT to AWESOME. And she took the most expensive item in her house and poured it out on Jesus.

She didn't hold anything back from Jesus.

- F. Why? Because she realized Jesus is worth it!  
Worth more than ANYTHING she had; and worth more than EVERYTHING she had.

Hey, she watched Jesus raise her brother, Lazarus, from the dead. So, she knew Jesus was not just a nice guy. She knew Jesus was God. And she knew Jesus is the GIVER of life. And in fact, she came to realize JESUS IS HER LIFE.

Which means this: Without Jesus I'm sunk. But with Jesus I'm saved.

- G. And when you realize your entire life is literally held together by Jesus, and you can't make it without Jesus, you'll gladly give Jesus what's most precious to you, because He's worth it.

Being sold out means IMMENSITY.

Being sold out means:

## 2. HUMILITY

- A. Do you see the humility of Mary's devotion?  
v. 4b anointed the feet of Jesus,

What is Mary doing? She's anointing the feet of Jesus.  
That's not the work of the owner of the house.  
That's the work of the servant of the house.

Mary's doing the most selfless act a person could ever do. Who wants to wash another person's feet?

- B. Mary did not care what other's thought. She only cared what Jesus thought.  
And anointing Jesus' feet made a statement, "I'm here on this Earth for only one reason: to serve you, Jesus."
- C. That's NOT how most people view their relationship with Jesus.

For many people, Jesus is a ticket to a better life.  
For many people, Jesus is their EMS; and they'll call Him when they're in trouble.  
For many people, Jesus is their Fire Insurance – I just need Him to keep me out of Hell.

But for Mary, Jesus is her SAVIOR and LORD – So, guess how she views her relationship with Jesus?

- D. The same way you should view your relationship with Jesus.
- Mary, Peter, James (the half-brother of Jesus), Jude (half-brother of Jesus), John the disciple, the apostle Paul, no doubt, they saw themselves as believers in Jesus, disciples of Jesus, followers of Jesus, but by far, they saw themselves as SLAVES OF JESUS.

**PICTURE: "Bond-slave" = Ex. 21:5-6; Deut. 12:15-17**

After 7 years of working for his master, voluntarily became his slave for life.

Ex. 21:5-6

But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,' <sup>6</sup> then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

- E. In other words, your relationship with Jesus should not be moving you UPWARD, but DOWNWARD.  
Not HIGHER, but LOWER

John the Baptist – said, "He must increase, and I must decrease."

- F. Your relationship with Jesus should move you to become bond-slaves to Jesus.  
That's the place of total humility, because you know the only thing you have that is worth giving Jesus is your life.

And that's what Mary was saying to Jesus when she anointed his feet with oil: My life belongs to You.

- G. Have you told Jesus recently, “My life belongs to You”?  
If you haven’t why not?  
He gave His life for you.  
How can you not give your life to Him?

Being sold out requires HUMILITY.  
But being sold out to Jesus means:

### 3. Losing Your DIGNITY

- A. Do you see the loss of dignity of Mary?  
3c and wiped His feet with her hair.

Women wore their hair long, and many wore their hair braided.

But a woman would never unbraided her hair in public.  
Do you know why? It was undignified.

- B. Assuming Mary wore her hair in braids, she did the undignified thing.  
She wiped Jesus’ feet with her hair.

Do you remember what King David did before the Lord when the Ark of the Covenant was paraded into Jerusalem?

**PICTURE: David DANCED.**

2 Sam. 6:14 And David was dancing before the Lord with all *his* might, and David was wearing a linen ephod.  
(leaping and dancing before the Lord)

2 Sam. 6:21-22

<sup>20</sup> But when David returned to bless his household, Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, “How the king of Israel distinguished himself today! He uncovered himself today in the eyes of his servants’ maids as one of the foolish ones shamelessly uncovers himself!” <sup>21</sup> So David said to Michal, “*It was before the Lord, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel; therefore I will celebrate before the Lord.*” <sup>22</sup> I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be humble in my own eyes, but with the maids of whom you have spoken, with them I will be distinguished.”

In other words, “you think my dancing was undignified. You haven’t seen anything yet.”

- C. I’m not saying that in our relationship with Jesus we should ever “turn ‘er loose” and get out of control.

But I do believe our relationship with Jesus should move us to become less dignified – we’ll lose our dignity.

**Ex.PICTURE: Pharisee & Tax Collector – Luke 18:9-14**

Pharisee – He stood and was praying to himself: I thank God that I’m not like other people: swindlers, unjust,

adulterers, or even this Tax Collector. I fast twice a week, pay tithes of all that I get.”

Tax Collector – stood afar off & would not even look up to Heaven, beat his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me, THE SINNER!”

Do you know the difference between the Pharisee and the Tax Collector? The Pharisee went home DIGNIFIED. The tax collector went home JUSTIFIED.

- D. Does your relationship with Jesus move you, mobilize you do something undignified?  
Does it move you to cry out to God at the altar?  
Does it move you to worship with hands lifted high?  
Does it move you to be baptized?  
Does it move you to serve?  
Does it move you to share Jesus with the lost?
- E. Mary was not concerned about being dignified. She was more concerned about being justified. How about you?

Being sold out to Jesus means losing your dignity. Finally, being sold out to Jesus means

#### **4. TESTIMONY**

- A. v.3d And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

The fragrance filled the house – and the fragrance got all in that house; and it got on everyone in that house – including JUDAS.

- B. What was the fragrance?  
It was the testimony of Mary who was telling everyone in the house that “the love of Jesus moved me to be sold out to Jesus.”
- C. And everyone saw the heart of Mary for Jesus. And in fact, her testimony would be told far after her life and all around the world.

Everyone who reads the Word of God will hear her story and how she was sold out to Jesus.

- D. And that’s what your family and friends and neighbors and co-workers need to hear and see from you.

**They need to hear and see that you are sold out to Jesus.**

And they will know you are sold out as you:

Talk about your love for Jesus.

Learn about Jesus.

Grow in Jesus.

Come and worship Jesus.

Serve in the Name of Jesus.

**LIVE EVERY DAY FOR JESUS.**

E. And when people see you are sold out to Jesus, they will want to know more about Jesus.

Because there's no more powerful witness than a person whose life has been saved by Jesus and is sold out to Jesus.

Conclusion:

In your journey with Jesus, have you come to the place that you are ready to sell out to Jesus?

IMMENSITY

HUMILITY

LOSS OF DIGNITY

TESTIMONY

That's what you will experience when you sell out to Jesus. And believe me, Jesus is worth it.