



## Sermon Series Notes

### “Fragrant Worship” (Mark 14:1-9)

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Intro: Read intro to “The Air I Breathe” (Giglio); I was taken aback this past weekend when I discovered that Daniel Henderson had chosen worship as his theme for the weekend message, because I already had added worship as one of the topics I wanted to cover in our series on Christian basics. But what God laid on my heart does not duplicate what Daniel shared with us, it simply compliments it.

- Whatever is worth most to us is what we worship

Follow the trail of your time, energy, affections, and money, and there you find a throne. And whatever or whoever is on that throne is the object of your worship.

Read “The Air I Breathe,” p.13.

We were made for God.

- Colossians 1:15-16 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him **and for him**.

Read Romans 1, noting verse 25

The essence of idolatry is when I allow anything or anyone to become more important to me than God. Now read “The Air I Breathe, p.29, bottom.

There is an example in the NT of someone who is to me perhaps the greatest example of a worshipper who did not allow anything or anyone to come between them and their worship. See Mark 14:1-9. John’s record of this tells us the identity of this woman. Read John 12:1-8. See also Luke 7:36-39 (Is this Mary?). When we closely examine Mary’s life, several things are revealed that tells us what made her the worshipper she was.

- Ears to hear (Luke 10:38-42)
  - Jesus would often say before he spoke, “He who ears to hear...” All seven of the letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2 & 3 end with “He who has an ear, let him hear.” A hearing ear is not a gift given discriminately to one and not another, but

rather is attained by choices we make in life. See Luke 10:38-42. Mary's hearing ear was the result of making a choice to set her priority in life on listening to the words of the Master, not allowing even the necessity of serving Him to get in the way. She was able to do this because of a second characteristic of her life.

- A circumcised heart
  - Circumcision means "cutting away." It is the cutting away of the flesh, but also of good but unnecessary things that keep God from being top priority. In the parable of the seed and the sower, some over a period of time allow worries, riches, and pleasures to choke the Word and as a result their lives become unfruitful. These are things that in and of themselves may not be sinful, but they become sinful when they take priority over the things of God.
  
- Made worship a priority even over gifts for the poor
  - This point is filled with irony to me, because one of the ways Jesus said we minister to him is by helping the poor. But even such a compassionate and Christ honoring thing as helping the poor comes secondary to the priority of worship.
  
- Willingness to forego all human relationships for the sake of intimacy with Jesus.
  - Scholars suggest that this perfume Mary anointed Jesus with would have been her dowry. Sacrificing this in an extravagant expression of worship as she did would in essence mean that she was making Jesus more important than any romantic relationship, even to the point of giving up what would have been in that culture a very important commodity to secure a husband one day. May I remind us what the text tells us about the value of that perfume – worth **more than** a year's average wages!
  
- Her act of worship was sacrificial
  - See II Sam.24:18-24
  
- Willingness to suffer the abuse of the crowd for the accolades of the Christ.
  - Accolades = praise, approval.
  - Martha had rebuked her when she made the priority of sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to His words over the practical demands of serving. Now she is rebuked by none other than the apostles! The gospel repeatedly mentions people who believed in Jesus but would not openly confess him because they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. It's the same regarding expressions of worship, some people will not publicly express themselves in worship because they are afraid of what people will think of them, or say about them. See II Samuel 6:14-22.
  
- Stayed in step with the prompting of the Holy Spirit (Gal.5:25)
  - "Among the tragedies in life are the times we are moved to do something fine or noble, and we do not do it. Instead, we yield to 'common sense' or the busyness of life."

## CONCLUSION

- "The Air I Breathe," p.49, then pp.99-100