



Why This Waste | Tory Mayo | 7.5

Weekly Study

SHARE

Happy Sunday Red Rocks family! This week we're excited to welcome Pastor Tory Mayo as he kicks off our Preacher Swap series with a message from Matthew 26. In this passage, we meet a woman who pours out an incredibly expensive jar of perfume on Jesus. To everyone watching, it looked like a complete waste. The disciples even asked, "Why this waste?" But Jesus saw something entirely different. He called it "a beautiful thing."

It's easy to evaluate our lives the way the disciples did. We naturally ask whether following Jesus is really worth the sacrifice. Is giving up our comfort, security, reputation, or plans actually worth it? This week we'll discover that when we truly see the beauty of Jesus, sacrifice no longer feels like loss, rather it becomes worship.

- ☐ **Has there ever been a time you sacrificed something significant for someone you deeply loved? Looking back, what made that sacrifice worth it?**

GROW

Read Matthew 26:6-13

At first glance, this story appears to be about extravagant generosity. But Jesus redirects everyone's attention away from the perfume and toward the heart behind it. While the disciples evaluated the cost of the gift, Jesus evaluated the worth of the One receiving it. They called it waste; Jesus called it beautiful.

The woman wasn't trying to earn Jesus' approval. She had already become captivated by Him. Her worship wasn't motivated by obligation but by affection. She saw Jesus as worthy of everything she had, and her surrender became a natural response to His beauty. Nothing given to Jesus is ever wasted because He is always faithful to use our surrender for His glory and our good.

- ☐ **Why do you think the disciples saw waste while Jesus saw beauty?**

☐ **What does this passage reveal about what Jesus values most?**

Throughout the message, Pastor Tory reminded us that intimacy always comes before sacrifice. We cannot sacrifice our way into a relationship with God. Instead, the more we know Jesus, the more our hearts naturally desire to surrender everything to Him. Like flowers given out of genuine love instead of obligation, our worship flows from relationship rather than religious duty.

This passage also reminds us that following Jesus won't always make sense to those around us. The woman was criticized by the people closest to Jesus. Likewise, obedience today may look foolish to coworkers, friends, family, or even to our own flesh. Yet throughout Scripture, God has a pattern of bringing resurrection through what the world calls foolish. What looks like loss in the moment often becomes the very place where God's faithfulness is most clearly seen. What appears to be lost today may become a testimony of God's faithfulness tomorrow.

☐ **Where have you been tempted to measure your obedience by what others think instead of what Jesus says?**

☐ **How does intimacy with Jesus change the way we view surrender?**

MOVE

Read Matthew 26:10

Jesus didn't evaluate Mary's worship by its monetary value or by how others perceived it. He saw the heart behind it. What others called waste, Jesus called beautiful. The same is true today. Faithful obedience won't always make sense to the people around us, but our goal isn't to earn the approval of others—it's to honor Christ.

☐ ☐ **Is there an area where you've allowed fear of other people's opinions to keep you from obeying Jesus?**

This week, don't begin by asking, "What do I need to sacrifice?" Instead, begin by asking, "Jesus, help me see You more clearly." As your love for Christ grows, ask Him to reveal your "alabaster jar." It may be your comfort, your schedule, your finances, your reputation, or even a dream you've been reluctant to surrender. Rather than focusing on what you're giving up, spend intentional time with Jesus and ask Him to deepen your trust. As intimacy grows, surrender becomes an act of worship instead of obligation.

☐ **What is one practical step of obedience God may be inviting you to take this week?**

Remember that Mary only foreshadowed the greater sacrifice of Jesus. Every act of surrender we make is simply a response to the infinitely greater sacrifice Christ has already made for us. Every

act of obedience we make is simply a response to His love. Because of that, nothing placed in His hands is ever wasted.

- ☐ **How can spending time with Jesus this week help your obedience flow from love rather than obligation?**
- ☐ **What is one way this group can encourage or support you as you take that step this week?**

P R A Y

Spend time sharing prayer requests as a group. As you pray, Thank Jesus for giving everything for us through the cross. Ask God to help you see Christ more clearly so that your worship flows from love rather than obligation. Pray that He would reveal any area you've been holding back and give you the faith to trust that nothing surrendered to Jesus is ever wasted.