

# A WORD ON WORSHIP

## MARCH 17, 2013

BY PASTOR ANDREW KIKKERT, SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH

**Mark 14:4-5**

But some were indignantly remarking to one another, "Why has this perfume been wasted? For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they were scolding her.

The disciples of Jesus are very adept about counting the cost of things, literally. In Mark 6, when Jesus tells them to feed the crowd waiting on the hillside, their mental cash registers ring up a 200 denarii estimate for bread cost alone. The average wage of a Roman soldier was 300 denarii a year. And when Mary opens the alabaster jar and pours out its contents on our Lord, the disciples count the cost of all that was lost to them. How well does your mental cash register work as you see others use the resources God has given them?

I have noticed we are very keen at counting the things we value, and yet completely miss the true value the Lord places on what He calls important. Jesus previously pointed out to the disciples in the temple courtyard the greatness of the widow's glad gift of all her copper mites, when compared to all that was given by the rich with fanfare. Even after all the teaching by Jesus about serving and humility, not one of the disciples challenged Mary's washing the feet of Jesus with her hair. They only challenged the extravagance of her act of love that used such a valuable gift on Jesus.

Money does matter and we are all called to be faithful stewards of the gifts God has given us. But have we allowed our mental calculations to shortchange our devotion and love of the Lord? Have we become afraid of doing something extravagant for the Lord because we are afraid of how others will respond to such an over-the-top expression of gratitude? I think Mary understood this was going to be the last time she would be with Lord once He left Bethany for Jerusalem. This was her opportunity to demonstrate her devotion regardless what the others in the room thought of her pouring out such an expensive perfume over our Lord's feet.

And there is a subtle warning in the attitude of the disciples for us all. Yes, Judas was upset as he saw the money he would not be able to pocket for himself, since the costly perfume would not be sold to fill the purse. But why were the disciples more closely aligned with Judas than they were with Mary? Let us examine our own motives as we see other people serve the Lord with complete abandon and not question or cast dispersions upon their motivation. In what ways has the Lord called each of us to be completely committed to him in our love and devotion by not saving something in reserve for ourselves but allowing all of our hearts, minds, souls and strength to be an offering to the One who saved us in His mercy.



**Sunrise Community Church**  
*Come acknowledge the Lord in our midst*  
**EVERY SUNDAY BEGINNING AT 8:45 A.M.**

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| MARCH 2013 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S          | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
| 24         | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 1  | 2  |
| 3          | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10         | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17         | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24         | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31         | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |

## At the Feet of Jesus

WORDS & MUSIC: PHILIP P. BLISS,  
IN GOSPEL HYMNS No. 2, 1876

<http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/a/t/f/atfeetje.htm>

At the feet of Jesus,  
Listening to His word;  
Learning wisdom's lesson  
From her loving Lord;  
Mary, led by heav'nly grace,  
Chose the meek disciple's  
place.

At the feet of Jesus  
Is the place for me,  
There a humble learner  
Would I choose to be.

At the feet of Jesus,  
Pouring perfume rare,  
Mary did her Savior  
For the grave prepare;  
And, from love the "good  
work" done,  
She her Lord's approval won.

At the feet of Jesus  
Is the place for me,  
There, in sweetest service  
Would I ever be.  
At the feet of Jesus,  
In that morning hour,  
Loving hearts, receiving  
Resurrection power,  
Haste with joy to preach the  
word;  
"Christ is risen, praise the  
Lord!"

At the feet of Jesus,  
Risen now for me,  
I shall sing His praises  
Through eternity.

# What's Happening at Sunrise

## March 2013

- |         |            |  |
|---------|------------|--|
| Mar. 17 | 8:45 a.m.  | Mark 14: 1-11<br><i>Working Like the Devil to Serve the Lord</i> |
|         | 10:30 a.m. | Second Hour  |
| Mar. 19 | 7:00 p.m.  | Bible Study in Galatians   |
| Mar. 22 | 6:30 p.m.  | Friday Night Fellowship  |
| Mar. 24 | 8:45 a.m.  | Sunday Service Palm Sunday                                       |
|         | 10:30 a.m. | Second Hour  |
| Mar. 25 | 7:00 p.m.  | Church Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Listening                   |
| Mar. 26 | 7:00 p.m.  | Church Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Listening                   |
| Mar. 27 | 7:00 p.m.  | Church Sanctuary Open for Prayer and Listening                   |
| Mar. 28 | 7:00 p.m.  | Westminster Maundy Thursday Services                             |
| Mar. 29 | 6:00 p.m.  | Sunrise Good Friday Services                                     |
| Mar. 31 | 8:45 a.m.  | Resurrection Sunday Services                                     |
|         | 10:30 a.m. | Community Pot Luck Brunch  |



## U.S. Appellate court rules fifth-grade student may invite classmates to church party under U.S. Constitution

[www.charismanews.com](http://www.charismanews.com)

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit Tuesday unanimously affirmed a lower court's order that found two policies at a Pennsylvania school district unconstitutional after they were used to prevent a fifth-grade student from distributing invitations to a Christmas party at her church.

"Public schools should encourage, not shut down, the free exchange of ideas," said Senior Counsel David Cortman, who argued before the court last October. "Those ideas include a fifth-grader's invitations to a religious event. The Third Circuit was correct in striking down the school district's unconstitutional ban."

"America's public schools should recognize the constitutionally protected freedom of students who wish to hand out these kinds of fliers," said Legal Counsel Matt Sharp. "A flier cannot be banned just because some element of religious faith is a part of it. On the contrary, the First Amendment specifically protects religious speech."

Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys filed suit in March 2011 on behalf of the Barrett Elementary Center student, identified in the lawsuit as "K.A."

The school district relied on two literature distribution policies, numbers 220 and 913, to justify its ban on the student's fliers. It attempted to argue that the First Amendment freedoms of elementary-age students can be severely limited, but the appellate court rejected that argument, finding that "it is difficult to identify a constitutional justification for cabining the First Amendment protections ... to older students." The court concluded, "The fact that K.A. was only in the fifth grade and the invitation originated from her church does not mandate a different approach."

The court also stated in its opinion that "the School District's failure in this appeal to identify any disruption caused by K.A.'s invitation, makes it reasonably likely that K.A. will prevail in this litigation. ... We also hold that the original and revised versions of Policy 220 and 913 are unconstitutional as applied to the form of student expression at issue here."

