

## Mark 14:7

***For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always.***

In today's devotional verse, this is when a woman was anointing Jesus with very costly oil, preparing Him for His death and burial (Even though she didn't know it). But while she was doing this, it says that, ***"But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, 'Why was this fragrant oil wasted? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.' And they criticized her sharply."*** Mark 14:4-5

Notice how it says "***some***" and "***they***" but we know from the gospel of John that this was Judas Iscariot who had started saying this and got others to join in with his schemes, because the bible says that, ***"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."*** John 12:6

But that's not what I want us to focus on today, but rather, how some love to tell others how they should use what God has blessed them with, and like Judas, they try and make it sound spiritual by throwing in some religious tones to it. ***"For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor."***

Which all sounds good on the outside, but doesn't God give to those who He wants to give to, because He know that they know how to use it for His glory? It seems that the more people are blessed, the more they want to bless others. Yet others see how much someone has, and they love to tell them, or suggest how they should be using what God has given that person.

But you know what, you have no idea how they are using God's blessings for His glory and to help others, because most of the time it is done in secret to give God glory and not themselves. But all you see is they have a lot, and that you don't, so your thought process may be, ***"Why don't they help out others, like me who could use some of that money right now"*** because like Judas, that's what their heart really reveals. Sure they could have taken that oil, like Judas Iscariot said, and sold it. But then Judas Iscariot would now be able to get his greedy little hands in there and take for himself.

But not everyone is like that, some just think that you have to have a lot and give a lot to make a difference. But God never asks for a lot because He owns the cattle on a thousand hill.

† **Psalm 50:10** ***For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills.***

Therefore, He does not need our money, just our heart. But God does not need us to direct someone else's heart to do for Him either. He knows their heart, and He knows what they are doing with what He has given them. So like the saying goes "Drive in your own lane" which

means stop trying to run others lives for them, or think you know better how they should live their life or what to do with what God has blessed them with.

† **Matthew 20:15** *Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?'*

† **Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 (MSG)** *Be generous: Invest in acts of charity. Charity yields high returns. Don't hoard your goods; spread them around. Be a blessing to others. This could be your last night.*