

RECEIVING A LASTING MEMORIAL

[Mark 14:9](#) “Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.”

When the officers, who were sent to arrest Jesus, came back without Him, they gave this as their reason for not apprehending Him, “Never man spake like this man,” [John 7:4-6](#). Truer words were never spoken.

Listen to some of the astounding claims Jesus made. He said, “I am the light of the world.” Could any mere man, in his right mind, make such a claim? Even more startling are the words, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Anyone who is just a human being would not even think of making such a claim. One of the most amazing statements Jesus ever made we hear of in [John 8:58](#), “Verily, verily I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.” Dwell on that claim for just a moment, Abraham lived about 1900 years before Jesus, yet our Lord says that He was in existence long before Abraham. What an utterly impossible and fantastic statement for a mere human being to **make!** Truly, “Never man spake like this man.” Of course, we know the answer to these astounding claims, Jesus is not only a human being, but He is also “God of God, Very God of Very God.”

Now look at our remarkable text. Before the New Testament was written, and before any command was given to preach the Gospel to every creature, Jesus states in a simple, and one might add, in an off-handed manner, that the Gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world—AND IT IS! He also predicted in the same breath that Mary’s deed of love would never be forgotten—AND IT IS NOT! In fact, we are at this moment fulfilling this promise of Jesus made to her. Truly Jesus is the omniscient God. Mary’s name and her deed will live forever because Jesus placed upon her head a lasting memorial wreath with a few blessed words from His lips.



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1. VAINLY SOUGHT AFTER BY THE WORLD

No one wants to pass out of existence and remembrance forever. There is a longing in every breast to be remembered by the coming generations. All know that there is a hereafter, but few want to let go entirely of the only world they know. Ah, how delightful is the thought to man to be reasonably certain that when life is over, his name will still be on the lips of many people. How satisfying to so many that their names will be recorded in history books where they can be held up as examples to others. It is a selfish desire and cannot help us after death, yet this longing seems to be harbored in the breast of most people.

The tower of Babel was intended as a lasting memorial for future generations, and the pyramids of Egypt were erected as a permanent remembrance to certain Pharaohs. Men have built tombstones, vaults, buildings, bridges, hospitals, colleges, observatories, cities, and empires to perpetuate their names and memories.

Who built the pyramids? What blood and toil were sacrificed to erect them? Who remembers? Buildings become old and unsafe and they must give way to new ones. Empires rise and fall, graves are turned into farms. In a few centuries most of the past is obliterated. Who was the richest man a hundred years ago? Hundred years from now, brand new earth, brand new memories. All is vanity and nothing is permanent, memory is very short indeed. We are reminded of the words in [Exodus 1:8](#), "There arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph." These thoughts humble a person.

But there is something better than a little flash of memory, there is a truly lasting memorial wreath offered to everyone by the Lord. Are you interested in acquiring it?

2. TRULY GIVEN BY THE LORD

Whatever God wants to be remembered will be remembered, and what He chooses to forget will be forgotten. Our memorials are entirely in His hands. Jesus placed a memorial wreath upon the head of this woman and her deed and the passing of the ages will never remove it.

Everyone who accepts Jesus by faith as the only Savior is washed pure in His blood. Such people immediately dedicate their lives to the glory of God and place themselves in His service as did the woman in our text. Jesus was eating in the house of Simon when Mary of Bethany came in with a box of very precious and costly ointment, representing, perhaps, a goodly share of her life's savings. Suddenly she was overwhelmed by her love for Jesus and she broke the box and poured the ointment over the head of the Master.

She was criticized for her actions by the disciples of Jesus. Even our own reason rebels somewhat and we begin to think within ourselves, "Why waste all of the ointment to be wafted away in the air, why not just a little to show her love? Why suddenly throw away all her savings? Why perpetuate such an impulsive act?" We would, no doubt, choose different acts to remember, for this deed seems so trivial.

But Jesus was well pleased with her unselfish act, and that is all that really counts. Now He made another remarkable statement, "She is come beforehand to anoint my body to the burying." Mary seemingly did not know that in a few days Jesus was going to die, otherwise her heart might have been broken like the alabaster box. Yet Jesus honored and regarded her deed as though she came to anoint Him for His burial. The Lord was so pleased with her that He immediately placed upon her a memorial wreath which time cannot erase.

We should love and trust the Savior as Mary did and we also will not count the cost of serving Jesus. God works always follow a true faith. Help the needy, love the brethren, support the church, these are some of the things which please the Lord. On the last day He will also regard our deeds in a special light and say to all of His true sheep, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." These are the deeds and fruits of faith which shall never be forgotten because Jesus regards them as having done to Himself. We, too, can have an everlasting memorial wreath in Jesus our Lord.

Who will ever remember us with our trials and troubles of life? Our little struggle will soon be over and another generation will take our place, who will care or remember us?

Can we have a memorial wreath that never fades away? It is in Jesus' hands entirely. Let us turn to Him in faith as the thief on the cross and plead, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." You know the answer Jesus will give us, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." There we shall never be forgotten in all eternity.

PRAYER. Lord Jesus Christ, we thank Thee for remembering us poor sinners and for leaving Thy heavenly throne to suffer and die for our sins. May we never forget Thy divine love and compassion. Thy holy cross is our everlasting memorial of Thy mercy to us sinners. Remember us in Thy mercy, O Lord, on the great day. The crown of life which Thou wilt be pleased to give us on that day will be our everlasting memorial. Hear us, Thou who livest and reignest with the Father and Spirit, ever one God, world without end. AMEN.