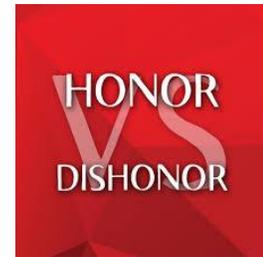


For this year's Easter series, we are looking at the difference between Honor and Dishonor.
Honor: to respect, exalt, praise
Dishonor: to scandalize, discredit, slander



We began with Judas Iscariot and how he dishonored the Lord Jesus.

We left off last time with Judas scheming with the religious leaders regarding the arrest and killing of Jesus.

They were all living in the principle that, if you don't think like I do, then I don't want you around; even to the extent of murder.

Isn't that the motive behind terrorism today?

If someone doesn't come around to the thinking of the terrorist, then they are killed.

Oh,

We have to be so careful that we do not fall into that trap of Satan, because that is what it is.

In our time together today, we see a beautiful picture of what it looks like to honor the Lord Jesus.

Mt 26:6 *Now when Jesus was in Bethany, at the home of Simon the leper,*

Notice where Jesus was.

At the home of a man named Simon. Nothing wrong with that.

But wait!

Simon had leprosy!

A disease of rotting flesh and oozing sores that people considered contagious.

v.7 *a woman came to Him with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume, and she poured it on His head as He reclined at the table.*

v.8 *But the disciples were indignant when they saw this, and said, "Why this waste?"*

v.9 *"For this perfume might have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor."*

v.10 *But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you bother the woman? For she has done a good deed to Me."*

v.11 *"For you always have the poor with you; but you do not always have Me.*

v.12 *"For when she poured this perfume on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial.*

v.13 *"Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."*

Now;

Believe it or not,

There is another scene in the gospels that is very similar to this one.

A similar act but different woman.

I want to make one comment on this scene before we move on to the next one.

Jesus said;

v.13 *"Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."*

Why is that?

Because everything we do is eternal!

Everything you do has eternal ramifications.

It doesn't stop with this life but it goes into life eternal, bringing either rewards or judgment.

Now;

Being in Bethany, it is believed this woman was Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus.

Mary, a Godly woman, loved Jesus and would sit at His feet to listen to Him.

I want to take you to Luke's gospel and see a mystery woman who also honored Jesus in an extravagant way.

Lu 7 this scene takes place in the house of a Pharisee (a religious leader of the Jews)

Interestingly;

Both men are named Simon.

v.36 *Now one of the Pharisees was requesting Him to dine with him, and He entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.*

Well to do people had houses where they would frequently eat in the courtyard. The courtyard was open to the street that, when a Rabbi was there, the people would come in and listen to him.

v.37 *And there was a woman in the city who was a sinner;*
A woman of the town
A lady of the night
She made her money immorally!

and when she learned that He was reclining at the table in the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster vial of perfume,
Alabaster was costly stone, carved and polished to hold very expensive perfume.

We have 3 types of people represented here:

1. Christ represents the revealer of God's love
2. The woman represents those who penitently and lovingly recognize that Divine love God has for them.
3. The Pharisee represents the self-righteous who judge the sinners for they are ignorant of God's love.



v.38 *and standing behind Him at His feet,*
for in that culture, they sat on their side on couches with feet extended.



weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears, and kept wiping them with the hair of her head, and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.

This woman was a prostitute. Why does a woman become a prostitute?

Perhaps because she has lost all hope.

Why do people waste their lives?

Perhaps because they have lost all hope.

Why do people give up on themselves?

Perhaps because they have lost all hope.

"Hope delayed makes the heart sick" Pr 13:12

But wait!

One day she heard Jesus preaching and it touched her heart. Hope welled up inside of her. And she began to change. She sought Him.

She teaches us, Jesus is the change agent. No one else is, not even ourselves, But He can change anyone if you let Him.

She gave Him her most expensive possessions.

Her perfume, came from selling her body.
Her tears came from her soul, her broken soul.

Ps 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

They were her offerings of her innermost feelings. And she wasn't afraid to give them.
And Jesus accepted them both.
He always accepts what we give from our heart.

And look!
*She kept wiping them with the hair of her head,
and kissing His feet and anointing them with the perfume.*

She honored the Lord.
She:

1. Entered a Pharisees house as a sinner
2. Sought Jesus to honor Him
3. She gave of her very soul to Him with her tears
4. She forgot who and where she was, uncovered her hair and wiped His feet
5. She anointed His feet with costly perfume, perfume that she gave her own soul for

And Jesus ended by saying;
v.50 *"Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*
"peace" serenity of mind, calm, hope
Your conscience is clear. The past is gone and the future is yours.
That's what Jesus gives when you come to Him.

In Christ, all things become new.
And they can become new for you, the very same way – through faith.