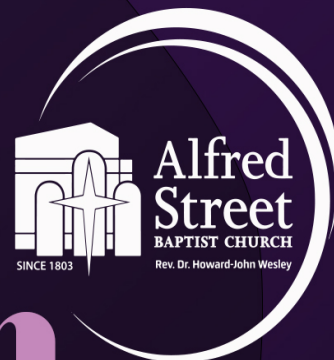




**MARCH 27-28, 2021**  
**MARK 14:1-11 (NRSV)**

A SERMON SERIES BY

**REV. DR. HOWARD-JOHN WESLEY** | @PASTORHJW



**I'm  
SPEAKING**  
**PART 3**



**VILLAGE**  
@ASBC  
MOVING FROM CROWD TO COMMUNITY

**Sunday, March 28, 2021**

**Preacher: Rev. Dr. Howard-John**

**Wesley Sermon: "I'm Speaking"**

**Scripture: Mark 14:1-11 (NRSV)**

**CURRICULUM  
GUIDE**





## Sermon Summary

This sermon is the final installment in Pastor Wesley's series, "I'm Speaking." We learn that during Holy Week and prior to Calvary, Jesus has interactions with only two women: the widow who comes to the altar and gives all that she has and the woman who anoints Jesus before his death. Using the woman who anoints Jesus as an example, Pastor Wesley examines the motivation behind how we bless others. In critiquing society's obsession with unmerited celebrity and its impact on our behavior, we are reminded that crowds do not confirm the purpose of God. Applause does not confirm that you are walking in God's will. Numbers do not indicate you being in alignment with God's desire for your life. What matters is our motivation behind what we do. The woman who anoints Jesus is a perfect example of how we should share ourselves and our blessings with others, including God. This woman does not give in gratitude for a previous blessing or in anticipation of a future blessing; instead,

1. She gave simply out of love and devotion
2. She gave her ALL
3. She gave with the right motivation

## Notes for Facilitators:

Welcome to Week 8. Please be sure to remind Villagers that the Curriculum Guides are always available for download from the ASBC website under the Member/Disciple Needs >Village > Curriculum Guides tabs. When Village reconvenes on March 29, 2021, there will only be 2 weeks left in the Winter/Spring Season. Now is a good time to start preparing your Village for the season's wrap-up. This is also a great time to identify Village members who might be good facilitators for your Village or for a different Village in the Fall. We do not know whether Village will return to its in-person format next season but look for ASBC announcements this summer about Village's return to open registration and recruitment of facilitators, curriculum guide team members, and Village participants for fall 2021.



# Getting To Know You Questions:

1. Where have you experienced genuine love this week? Where have you shared genuine love this week?
2. The crowd saw the woman's gift as a waste, but Jesus called it "a good work," an investment in the future. Is there something God has called you to do that seems like a waste to others? What is holding you back from doing what God has said? How does remembering that 'nothing you put in God's hands is ever in jeopardy change your outlook?





## Into The Bible Questions:

1. In Mark 14:7, Jesus makes the statement, "For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me." This statement can be perceived as harsh but how did Pastor Wesley connect this to the woman's actions?
2. There were two types of crowd reactions to the woman's sacrifice - confusion and anger. Mark 14:10 records Judas' angry response to the woman's anointing. Judas' betrayal leads to the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. Yet, Jesus called what the woman did a good work. Share a time when you did a good work for God only to receive criticism and/or an angry response from others?



## Life Application Questions:

1. The woman saw what was done on Calvary and was led to act. She gave without any expectation or hope of Jesus blessing her in return. Can you describe a time when you did something without expecting anything in return? Can you describe a time when you did something with the wrong motivation?
2. According to Matthew, Mark and Luke the woman is unnamed. There is no indication that Jesus had done anything for her in the past or promised her any future blessings. Yet, she blessed Jesus by pouring a year's wages worth of oil on him. She did it simply out of love and devotion. How can you follow this woman's example in your daily interactions with people who can give you nothing in return

## "Can I Push It?"

1. Have you ever held back from God when God was asking you to do something or share something with no guarantee of receiving anything in return? Why did you do it? Would you do anything differently if faced with the same choice again?
2. During the sermon, Pastor Wesley uses the woman's example to remind us about the importance of tithing. As a church we've exceeded our level of giving, even amidst a pandemic. How do you encourage others who may feel differently about tithing?

## Activity:

The woman's voice is not represented in this version of the text. We don't know what she is thinking or feeling. In this week's activity, we are going to hear her speak. Spend a few minutes and think about things from her perspective. Then, share her voice by answering this question, "If I knew that my actions would lead to this outcome, would I still do it again?" If you feel led, share your rendition of her voice with the group. Please keep in mind that not everyone may get to share with the entire group.



# Spirit Work:

The woman shared something that was extremely valuable with Jesus, without expectation of something in return. Think of something valuable (tangible or intangible) that you can share with someone who can give you nothing in return. How can you share this valuable gift in the next week?

## **Additional Questions for Married Couples:**

Pastor Wesley said that true love confuses folks who are not in love. How have you and your spouse shown this type of love with each other? What are some ways you share this type of love with each other in the future?

## **Additional Questions for Young Adults:**

As a young adult, there may be built up pressure to please others or look good to the crowd in work and in relationships. How can you implement Pastor Wesley's admonishment to tell folks to MYOB in order to step into the places where God is leading you instead of trying to please the crowds?

## **Additional Questions for Parents:**

In what ways can we teach our children (other than modeling our behavior) to give fully without expectation and reciprocity?

## **Additional Questions for Women:**

In looking at this woman, we see that the entire room is different because she walks into the room. The atmosphere is changed for the better, because this woman walks into the room. In other words, her excellence exposed their mediocrity. Has that ever happened to you? Share a time when your presence and insistence on excellence expose the mediocrity in a place

## **Additional Questions for Men:**

Pastor Wesley shares that nothing is as discouraging as doing something with a pure heart and getting an evil response. Nothing discourages your walk more than trying to do the right thing with the pure and being met with an evil enemy response. Nothing is as damaging and discouraging as to bless, to be kind, and to love only to be met with evil and hatred and nasty and ugly. Have you ever had a pure heart and encountered an evil response? What did you do to overcome it?



## Reading for This Week

Matthew 26:6-13	Mark 14:1-11
Luke 7:36-50	John 12:1-8

## Further Study, Resources, and Terms

1. Parousia: a reference to the second coming of Christ.
2. Delayed Parousia: the delay of the second coming of Christ.
3. Spikenard: A costly fragrant ointment much valued in ancient times. Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/spikenard](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/spikenard).
4. ASBC 2021 Lenten Devotional <https://www.alfredstreet.org/lent2021/>
5. ASBC Self-Care Guide <https://www.alfredstreet.org/selah/>
6. Clark-Soles, Jaime, and Fentress-Williams, Judy, et al. The CEB Women's Bible. Common English Bible, 2016.
7. Fentress-Williams, Judy. Holy Imagination. Abingdon Press, 2021.