



Matthew 26 (NIV)

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

⁶ While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, ⁷ a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

⁸ When the disciples saw this, they were indignant (furious, angry). “Why this waste?” they asked. ⁹ “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.”

¹⁰ Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹ The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. ¹³ Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

Begin in Faith – awakened, inspired, purpose

Animated by love – motivated, energized, passion

Completed by Hope – conviction, patience

In the presence of Christ, we have gathered.

In the grace of Christ, we depart.

May God clothe you with power on high.

May God put this power to work in each of us.

Be full of love for others, following the example of Christ who loved you and gave himself to God as a sacrifice to take away your sins. And God was pleased, for Christ’s love for you was like sweet perfume to him. Ephesians 5:2 TLB

I love...(fill in the blank) I enjoy...

Does God want to use people like us? Can God use people like us?

Love isn’t practical, rational, economical or explainable

Titanic steams away from Southampton, 10 April 1912. Her first port of call was Cherbourg in France, where a further 274 passengers went on board.



Beyond Ourselves. Beyond our Walls. Beyond Ordinary.

Begins with Faith: *“Without faith it is impossible to please God.” Heb 11:6*

Faith speaks the language of the heart, it heals the deepest hurts, and makes each day sacred and significant. “I know the plans I have for you.

Animated by Love: *“We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:3*

Love that Goes Beyond WORDS

Compelling - “For Christ’s love **compels** us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.” 2 Cor. 5:14

Sacrificial – *giving up something you love for something that you love EVEN MORE*

Love that Goes Beyond REASON

“Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.” Mark 14:4

Loves shines the brightest in the hardest times.

Love that Goes Beyond PLEASES GOD

What is your alabaster jar?
What is precious to your soul?
What holds it power over you?
What do you fear losing that you just can't seem to give?
Where are you being stretched? Sounds so painful?

In life we have only a few rare moments to do something great
Moments you were born for, born again for.
Defining moments – really great that changes your destiny,

¹⁷Warn the rich people of this world not to be proud or to trust in wealth that is easily lost. Tell them to have faith in God, who is rich and blesses us with everything we need to enjoy life. ¹⁸Instruct them to do as many good deeds as they can and to help everyone. Remind the rich to be generous and share what they have. ¹⁹This will lay a solid foundation for the future, so that they will know what true life is like. **1 Timothy 6:17-19 (CEV)**

“Without faith it is impossible to please God.” Hebrews 11:6. When we act with faith that goes beyond our abilities and resources, we please God. There will be times when we will face obstacles that appear to be too big for us to handle on our own. Like the Israelites on the edge of the Promised Land, God will give us opportunities to increase our faith by allowing us to participate in His plans. Sadly, the Israelites focused on the obstacles and their abilities rather than on God's plan. Faith compels to

focus on His vision. Faith says, “I believe God will do this... and I'm putting my trust in Him with faith that goes beyond.”

Then Jesus defined the aspect of **faith that goes beyond** the senses, including sight: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29)

The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living Hebrews 11:1 (Msg)

Mark 14 Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ²“But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.” ³While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. ⁴Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? ⁵It could have been sold for more than a year's wages^[a] and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly. ⁶“Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷The poor you will always have with you,^[b] and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. ⁸She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” ¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

John 12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint^[a] of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages."^[b] ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you,^[c] but you will not always have me."

⁹ Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹ for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

When fear shapes our lives, safety becomes our god. When safety becomes our god, we worship the risk-free life. Can the safety lover do anything great? Can the risk-averse accomplish noble deeds? For God? For others? No. The fear-filled cannot love deeply; love is risky. They cannot give to the poor. Benevolence has no guarantee of return. The fear-filled cannot dream wildly. What if their dreams sputter and fall from the sky? The worship of safety emasculates greatness. No wonder Jesus wages such a war against fear. {Max Lucado, Fearless}

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover. —**Mark Twain**

SACRED JOURNEY

The Flow of Love

Agape love frequently expresses itself as a flow of compassion. Jesus said, "Rivers of living water shall flow from the inmost being of anyone who believes in me." Compassion is one of these rivers. It is a gentle stream of tenderness and concern for another person's need. Such love compelled Jesus to feed the hungry, comfort the sorrowing, heal the sick, teach the multitude, and raise the dead.

Most of us at some time in our lives have experienced this flow of love toward someone.

Perhaps you felt it while washing the dishes, or while working on the job, or driving down the freeway, or sitting in a classroom. You couldn't explain it, but your impulse was to do something special for that person.

A magazine recently had a picture of a butterfly on one of its pages. Its color is a dull gray until warmed by one's hand. The touch of a hand causes the special inks in the printing to react, and the dull gray is transformed into a flashing rainbow of color.

What other things can be changed by the warmth of your agape love? Your family? Your church? Your city? This hurting world is hungry for the touch of someone who cares -- who really cares! Through God's agape kind of love, you can be that someone.

Ask God to manifest His tender compassion through you in some way today. As you pray, ask Him to lay someone on your heart. When you sense God's love flowing through you to that individual, find out his need and begin ministering to that need. When God leads you to help someone, He will enable you to do what He leads you to do.