

# Death To Selfie

## Week 7: “Death To Approval”

**Weekly Summary:** Death to Approval—You would think that an extravagant offering for Jesus would receive the approval of the church. Not so. Judas and others criticized the woman who anointed Jesus. The same thing happens today. Follow Jesus and the world might not approve. You’re wasting time. Wasting money. Wasting energy. Wasting your life. But Jesus defends those who love him. His approval is what matters the most, since it lasts forever.

- ◆ Mark 14:3a - While 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.
  
- ◆ Mark 14:3b - She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.
  
- ◆ Mark 14:4-5 - Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? 5 It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages<sup>[a]</sup> and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.
  
- ◆ Mark 14:6-7 - “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 7 The poor you will always have with you,<sup>[a]</sup> and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me.
  
- ◆ Jesus loves unreasonable faith.
  
- ◆ Mark 14:8-9 - She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. 9 Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

- ◆ Jesus shows **unreasonable love**.
  
- ◆ Titus 3:5-7 - He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.
  
- ◆ Romans 12:1 (KJV) - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

### **Points to Ponder**

1. Think through Jesus' suffering and death. What unreasonable things did he endure, despite being the Son of God? What adjectives best describe his love for us?
2. Whose "unreasonable" devotion to Jesus most inspired you and/or impacted your life? What did that person do? Why did that person do it?
3. Challenge: Pray about possibly joining the Unreasonable Matching Gift challenge.

### **Homework For Next Week: Mark 16:1-8**

*"My disciples, does the world hate you? Remember that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you like one of its own. But you do not belong to the world. I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."  
~ John 15:18-19*