

## An Atmosphere of Worship

What's an atmosphere of worship?

- A surrendered life
- Extravagant devotion to the one you love and adore

There's a **shift** in the atmosphere when we let it all go and press into God!

Mary of Bethany also known as the woman with the Alabaster Box is a powerful story /testimonial of extravagant worship. Jesus speaks about this in the scriptures.



### SCRIPTURES:

- 1) 2 Chronicles 5:13 & 14  
(Atmosphere)
- 2) John 12:1-8 (Spikenard)

*Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial." For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." –John 12: 1-8*

Mary's story is mentioned in all 4 of the gospels. This story actually took place Easter week called Passover as we read in verse 1.

**If you have the fragrance of Spikenard, take just a minute and image yourself in that room with Mary and Jesus, its fragrance permeated and filled the entire**



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room! O what a heavenly aroma, one of intimacy of a Bride with her Bridegroom.

## ALABASTER FLASK/BOX:



- It was hand carved in Biblical times and imported to Jerusalem from the Far East
- Alabaster is very fragile – on a scale 1-10 it's a #2
- These flasks (all shapes & sizes) were usually sealed with a wax and had very costly oils, perfumes and ointments in them

## SPIKENARD:

- Spikenard was a fragrance for Kings (royalty) the common person was not able to purchase this costly fragrant oil (ointment)
- Spikenard in the Hebrew means=light
- It was so costly that it was approximately a year's wage to common folk
  - To us today it would cost about; \$2,000.00 for a flask.

## SYMBOLS:

- **Alabaster flask:** our life – it's fragile – breaking open-breakthrough
- **Spikenard:** Jesus inside - royalty, light
- **Oil:** it speaks of the Holy Spirit, shiny
- **Fragrance:** His presence, our worship pleasing to the LORD
- **Cost:** seek the LORD with all your heart, He wants your everything, total abandonment (jumping off the cliff)

## LEGACY/MEMORIAL:

- Jesus spoke to those opposed to Mary anointing Jesus feet & body that her story would be a memorial. Matt.25:13; Mark 14:9

What is your memorial (story)?

Have you had a breaking in your life?



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## TESTIMONIAL:

*I had a breaking in my life a few years ago. It was a breakthrough in worship which I can say I have never been the same.*

*It began at a ladies meeting and continued on during worship on a Sunday morning. Pastor Marion had said: "Lora sit in this chair and girls surround her and pray for a breakthrough in worship."*

*Funny thing is I sat down with a defiant plop and actually hurt my elbow. Nothing happen at the ladies meeting... BUT 2 days later...*

*Sunday morning during worship the Pastor said: "Anyone called to the Worship Arts Ministry stand up." I felt myself stand up and kind of looked around and said how did that happen? (O defiant one that I was)*

*The Pastors prayer that: I would have a warfare dance and fire in my feet!*

*That day my flask broke! I stood during the 2 hour service and waved a red flag and could not sit down. The fragrance of worship came out of my life. I have never been the same!*

## WHAT ABOUT YOU?

- Do you need a breaking in your life?
- Are you holding back?
- Do you know Jesus in a personal way and intimate way? He certainly knows you! He knows how many hairs are on your head!
- Will you let go, abandon self and break open your alabaster box?
- Others may say you are wasting your time, wasting your life. But you know where you have been and how much He has forgiven you.

Jesus is worthy of our worship. Worship in holiness, being set apart as a life pleasing to Him our King of Kings. As we surrender the flesh – break open our alabaster box and fragrance will come from our lives and others will smell it.

- Ever been around someone and just want to sit by them? They don't have to say anything? That is a life consecrated - a life of worship.

Jesus said; Leave her alone! She has anointed me for my burial.

- Jesus' life would be broken for us



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What do we associate with His burial?

- Bury the old life
- Death to the SELF nature
- Take off the garment of flesh, put on the Spirit
  - The Messiah's garments are saturated with fragrance (Psalm 45:8)

*John 3:30 "He must increase, but I must decrease."*

**Spikenard in the Greek = genuine and pure**

- Our worship must be genuine & pure otherwise we are just giving lip service
- Emanates out of a spirit of worship

*2 Corinthians 2: 14-15 now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God: the fragrance of Christ, among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.*

Other Fragrances:

**Myrrh = suffering:** Myrrh was associated with burial as was Spikenard— death. Sounds morbid but the flesh must die so the spirit can soar!

**Frankincense = sacrifice:** Frankincense was used in worship and part of the Holy Anointing oil (Exodus 30: 34-37). It was a fragrance of meeting with God. This fragrance was used especially on the animal sacrifices and could be smelled for miles.

Beloved, what fragrance are you? Do you live a life consecrated unto the LORD your Bridegroom? Is your life full of suffering and sacrifice? Your life has a fragrance and when Myrrh or Frankincense is crushed a sweet aroma is produced and permeates the atmosphere.

Let us mix these fragrances of our life and offer them as a pleasing aroma to our Bridegroom. We can create an atmosphere of abandonment before the LORD which will be a sweet odor to His nostrils...



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