

# Mark 14:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.

## Analysis

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**Let her alone; why trouble ye her?** (Ἄφετε αὐτήν· τί αὐτῇ κόπους παρέχετε;)—Jesus defends the woman against the disciples' criticism with a sharp rhetorical question. The verb aphete ("let alone") is an imperative command, demanding they cease their reproach. **She hath wrought a good work on me** (καλὸν ἔργον ἤργασατο ἐν ἐμοί)—kalon ergon means "beautiful work," denoting moral excellence and intrinsic goodness, not mere utility.

Jesus reframes wasteful extravagance as prophetic worship. The disciples saw economics; Christ saw eschatology. Her anointing anticipated his burial (v. 8), making this costly devotion a singular act of prophetic insight. By defending her, Jesus establishes that love's extravagance toward him transcends even charitable duty—a radical prioritization that offended utilitarian piety then and now.

## Historical Context

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This anointing occurred in Bethany during Passion Week (26-30 AD), just days before the crucifixion. Pure nard was imported from the Himalayas, making it extraordinarily expensive—worth 300 denarii (a year's wages for a laborer). The disciples' objection reflected common Jewish values of charity, but Jesus corrected their failure to recognize the eschatological moment.

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. When have you criticized another's worship as "wasteful" because it seemed impractical?
2. How does Jesus' defense of this woman challenge your assumption that practical charity always trumps costly devotion?

## Interlinear Text

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ο	δὲ	Ἰησοῦς	εἶπεν	Ἄφετε	αὐτῇ	τί	αὐτῇ	κόπους
G3588	And	Jesus	said	Let	her	why	her	trouble ye
G1161		G2424	G2036	G863	G846	G5101	G846	G2873
παρέχετε	καλὸν	ἔργον	εἰργάσατο	εἰς	ἐμέ			
G3930	a good	work	she hath wrought	on	me			
	G2570	G2041	G2038	G1519	G1691			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 10:24** (Good): And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

**Hebrews 13:21** (Good): Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Ephesians 2:10** (Good): For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

**Matthew 26:10** (Good): When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.

**Titus 2:14** (Good): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

**Titus 3:14** (Good): And let our's also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

**2 Timothy 2:21** (Good): If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

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