

Mark 14:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

Analysis

Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world (ὅπου ἐὰν κηρυχθῇ τὸ εὐαγγέλιον, hopou ean kērychthē to euangelion)—Jesus prophesies the global spread of the gospel message with divine certainty. The verb κηρυχθῇ (kērychthē) means "proclaimed" or "heralded," the same term used for royal announcements. **This also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her** (μνημόσυνον, mnēmosynon) eternally honors this woman's sacrificial devotion.

Jesus grants her act immortality in the gospel narrative itself—her unnamed deed (anointing Jesus for burial) outlasts the named deeds of kings and emperors. The memorial (mnēmosynon) isn't a monument of stone but living proclamation. While Judas sought monetary gain (v. 11), she gave extravagantly. While religious leaders plotted death (v. 1), she prepared Jesus for burial. Her act models wholehearted worship that sees Christ's worth and gives accordingly, foreshadowing the worldwide church's worship.

Historical Context

This prophecy, spoken in a small Palestinian village around AD 30, has been literally fulfilled—for nearly 2,000 years, this woman's act has been "spoken of" wherever Mark's Gospel is read. Her anonymity (Mark doesn't name her, though John 12:3 identifies her as Mary of Bethany) makes her a model for all disciples—

fame isn't the goal; faithful devotion is. The phrase "throughout the whole world" (ἐν ὅλῳ τῷ κόσμῳ) was staggering in first-century Palestine, where the gospel was known only in Judea. Jesus' prophetic certainty revealed divine foreknowledge and the gospel's unstoppable advance.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' eternal memorializing of this woman's devotion challenge worldly pursuits of fame and recognition?
2. What acts of costly devotion to Christ might seem "wasteful" to pragmatic observers but precious to Jesus?
3. How does the contrast between this woman's worship and Judas's betrayal expose the heart's true treasure?

Interlinear Text

ἀμὲν	λέγω	ὕμῖν	ὅπου	ἂν	κηρυχθῇ	τὸ
Verily	I say	unto you	Wheresoever	G302	shall be preached	G3588
G281	G3004	G5213	G3699		G2784	
εὐαγγέλιον	τοῦτο	εἰς	ὅλον	τὸν	κόσμον	καὶ ὃ
gospel	this	of for	the whole	G3588	world	this also
G2098	G5124	G1519	G3650		G2889	G3739
ἐποίησεν	αὕτη	λαληθήσεται	εἰς	μνημόσυνον	αὐτῆς	
hath done	that she	shall be spoken	of for	a memorial	of her	
G4160	G3778	G2980	G1519	G3422	G846	

Additional Cross-References

Mark 16:15 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Matthew 24:14 (Parallel theme): And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

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