

Matthew 26:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When Jesus understood it, he said unto them, Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me.

Analysis

Why trouble ye the woman?—Jesus defends Mary with *parechete kopous* (παρέχετε κόπους), 'stop causing her trouble/grief.' The Greek present tense suggests they were continuing to harass her. Christ protects His worshipers from religious critics. He values her heart's devotion over their utilitarian calculations.

For she hath wrought a good work upon me—The phrase *ergon kalon* (ἔργον καλόν) means 'beautiful work' or 'noble deed.' Jesus recognizes her act as prophetically significant. Unlike the disciples' blindness, Mary grasps that Jesus is the suffering Messiah who will die. Her anointing demonstrates spiritual insight and abandoned love.

Historical Context

In first-century Judaism, women's spiritual insights were often dismissed. Jesus's public affirmation of Mary's 'good work' honors her prophetic understanding and challenges gender hierarchies. She becomes a model of devotion when male disciples remain confused and critical.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's defense of Mary encourage you when religious people criticize your expressions of wholehearted devotion?
2. What makes an act 'good' in God's eyes—its practical utility or its expression of love for Christ?

Interlinear Text

γνοὺς	δὲ	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς	τί	κόπους
understood	When	G3588	Jesus	it he said	unto them	Why	trouble ye
G1097	G1161		G2424	G2036	G846	G5101	G2873
παρέχετε	τῇ	γυναικί	ἔργον	γὰρ	καλὸν	εἰργάσατο	εἰς
G3930	G3588	the woman	work	for	a good	she hath wrought	upon
		G1135	G2041	G1063	G2570	G2038	G1519
ἐμέ·							
me							
G1691							

Additional Cross-References

Titus 3:8 (Good): This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

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.

1 Timothy 3:1 (Good): This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

1 Timothy 5:10 (Good): Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.

Titus 1:16 (Good): They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

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

Titus 3:1 (Good): Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

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.

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.

Colossians 1:10 (Good): That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;