

# Matthew 26:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.

## Analysis

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**For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor—** John 12:6 exposes Judas's hypocrisy: he objected 'not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief.' The appeal to social concern masks selfish greed. The Greek *pollos* (πολλοῦ) emphasizes the high price—300 denarii, nearly a year's wages.

This false dichotomy—worship versus service to the poor—recurs throughout church history. Yet Jesus teaches that worship of Him takes priority. True worship produces genuine compassion for the poor, but substituting social action for devotion to Christ inverts God's order.

## Historical Context

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Judaism emphasized almsgiving (Deuteronomy 15:11, Proverbs 19:17), and the disciples' concern would seem pious. But Jesus rebukes the protest because it fails to recognize His unique moment in redemptive history—He won't always be present bodily. This wasn't ordinary time.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How can apparently noble concerns (helping the poor) be used to justify neglecting wholehearted devotion to Christ?
2. In what ways does your heart prioritize practical service over intimate worship of Jesus Himself?

## Interlinear Text

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ἡδύνατο	γὰρ	τοῦτο	τὸ	μύρον	πραθῆναι	πολλοῦ	καὶ
<b>might</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>this</b>	G3588	<b>ointment</b>	<b>have been sold</b>	<b>for much</b>	<b>and</b>
G1410	G1063	G5124		G3464	G4097	G4183	G2532
δοθῆναι	πτωχοῖς						
<b>given</b>	<b>to the poor</b>						
G1325	G4434						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Mark 14:5** (Parallel theme): For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.