

# 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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ἵδύνατο γὰρ τοῦτο τὸ μύρον πραθῆναι πολλοῦ καὶ  
might For this ointment have been sold for much and  
G1410 G1063 G5124 G3588 G3464 G4097 G4183 G2532

δοθῆναι πτωχοῖς  
given to the poor  
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.

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