

## SHE HATH DONE WHAT SHE COULD

It was six days before the Passover; Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon, the Leper. It was evening and his friends in Bethany had prepared for Him and His disciples a big supper. The occasion was charged with sentiment and deep feeling because of the foreboding awareness of the finality of this gathering.

It was at this supper that the most fitting and timely single act in human history was performed. Out of a heart of gratitude and concern for Christ, Mary poured upon Him the alabaster box of precious ointment. In response to this act of devotion, she was commended in tones of Divine approval: "She hath done what she could."

These words ring to us today out of the past to remind us of one who alone recognized the imminent approach of the tragedy soon to converge upon the Master. The Disciples had repeatedly listened to Christ telling of the sorrow and suffering that was soon to be His portion, yet they seemed oblivious to the seriousness of the hour.

Martha had criticized Mary for her lack of concern in preparing for the temporal needs of Christ, but He had commended her for her choice of spiritual things. She loved to sit at the feet of Jesus, to listen to His words of wisdom, and to drink deep at the spiritual fountain.

No doubt it was these hours of communion with Christ that gave her such a keen insight into the events that were to weave the cords of death and suffering around Him. She alone seemed to realize the nearness of the Cross, the unalterable fact of His death.

She longed for some way to express the depth of her love--some outward evidence of the deep emotions of her heart. With this attitude, all earthly possessions lost their importance--her only thought was to give her best to the Master.

She brought forth her most costly possession and anointed Christ. Mary, in her close relationship with Christ, was quick to recognize her last opportunity to do Him service. Her sensitive soul was quick to perceive what was hidden to the blinded eyes of the materialistic-minded disciples.

In this service, so gladly rendered, we can see reflected the spirit that should characterize every Christian woman.

The first and most important step is to get in the proper attitude that the Lord can reveal the need of each hour. This place in Christ can only be reached through a complete consecration. It is so easy to forget the depth of surrender when first we met Christ and forsook all to follow Him.

It is possible in the busy rush of this modern day, among the many demands upon our time, that we, like Martha, are spending our time in meeting the temporal needs of life and forgetting the better part. If this is the case, the spiritual senses will become dull, and will not be receptive to the impressions of the Spirit.

All that is done for Christ depends upon the depth and constancy of personal consecration. It is not enough to give Christ a part of your life--He must possess it completely. He must control the Heart, the Head, and the Hands.

*2nd* THE HEART: The heart is the seat of affections. Out of the heart flows the issues of life. It is the center of our being; the place of the Master's indwelling. Christ will not rule in the heart that is divided. We cannot serve two Masters. Christ reminds us that we should lay up treasures in heaven for where ~~the~~ our treasures are, there will our hearts be also. *Only one life will soon*

*1st* THE HEAD: It is imperative to discipline our thinking. It is much easier to let the mind drift aimlessly, thinking only of the moment.

We must govern our thoughts. We must think constructively if our thoughts are to please God. The Psalmist, David, prayed, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer."

The Apostle Paul ~~xxxxxxx~~ in the 4th chapter of Philipians ~~xxxx~~ gives us the pattern for our thoughts. "Whatsoever things that are TRUE, HONEST, JUST, PURE, LOVELY, AND OF GOOD REPORT...if there be ANY virtue...if there be ANY praise, think on these things." Our thoughts make us what we are... our thoughts control our actions, and form... character.

THE HANDS must be surrendered to Christ; trained to work for Him, and used only for His glory. A good cook can use her skill in the culinary arts to bring comfort to the Man of God; she may extend her art into feeding the hungry, remembering the sick with a dainty tray, providing for the underprivileged, and comforting the bereaved. Consecrated to Christ, this talent may find many channels of service.

The woman who is skilled with the needle may vie with Dorcas in her service to those who need her help. If her talent is consecrated, God will provide ways for her to serve.

The musician, the speaker, the prayer warrior, and all others with your individual talent may be a great blessing if they are fully yielded into God's hand as clay in the hands of the potter.

**INFLUENCE:** Influence is one of the greatest forces for good ever given by God. There is a condition that seems to be prevalent in some areas of our church today that causes me a great deal of concern and alarm. There appears to be a falling away, a letting up, a turning aside from the standards that have made our church great...standards that set us apart from the world as a separated people.

It is my belief that much of this trend may be traced back to us--the women of the church. Could it be possible that we, have in any measure been responsible for this state of luke-warmness in the church.

It has been said that the morals of a Nation are no higher than the morals of the women. Can it not also be said that the standards of our Church are no higher than the standards of our women? - *Standards of Holiness*

Let's face it ladies, we are letting our church down ... we are failing Christ when we are careless, frivolous, and leaning <sup>in our devotion to God & His Cause</sup> towards the world. Our lack of consecration may well sway the hearts of our young people away from God. They are watching us as mothers of the church and expecting us to set the pattern.

When our children are around us, it is our responsibility to implant within their hearts the Scriptures. It is ours to build church loyalty, to build Christian character. Around our family altars we can do much to fashion the attitudes, the ideals, and the futures, of our children.

It is up to us to set the styles and fashions of clothes. By precept and example, by thoughtful selection of cloths for the children, and by prayerful guidance as they enter into adulthood, we should be able to maintain the standards of modesty among our youth. For the sake of the children among us, for the sake of the youth today, for the sake of future generations, may God help us to to our best to stem the tide, and bring back to our church some of the values once held so dear.

In this pleasure seeking generation, all restrictions seem to be lifted. We have come to the place that nothing is classified as sin. We, along with older denominations, have taken the position that young people must be entertained...they must have their fun at all costs.

This is resulting in a new generation that know a little of the standards of Holiness and Godliness. Many of our young people feel that they can do what all other young people are doing and still be a Christian. They no longer have convictions, standards, or restraint.

*— Some Churches have no Training for Ch & Yth carelessness*

God help us, ladies; is it possible in our compromise, that we are not only retarding the spirituality of our own church, but that we are threatening its very foundations and leading our younger generation along the pathway of least resistance--a path that can only lead to moral and spiritual suicide.

*meet the need of the hour*

The only way we can atone for past laxity is by earnest prayer, hard work, and a determination to return to the fundamental doctrines of our Church. By careful planning in the home, by willingness to devote time and effort, we can furnish leadership to the youth in the home, the church, and community to challenge them to lives of purity, nobility, and holiness.

It is true that young people must have recreation but if our Christian women will be willing to dedicate their time to the cause, their recreation may be planned, supervised, and constructive. Under the direction of consecrated workers, it can become a great force in teaching, training, and guiding their lives.

Youth must be challenged. Youth today is looking for the genuine. The youth of today are well-informed. They have had educational advantages far beyond those of their parents. They can and will see any inconsistencies in our lives. They are observing our religion in action...and the *example* we set *live* will decide the future of many young people.

The women of our church have made great strides of progress since the inception of the W. A; but we have just gleaned around the edges. There are

vast fields of ripened grain waving in the breeze, beckoning us to greater fields of service for our Master.

I commend you here at East Rockingham for the outstanding work you are doing for Missions. Your vision of this great task of getting the Gospel to every Nation is most inspiring. With your <sup>General</sup> material aids to missions, don't forget that the greatest need is intercessory prayer. We must take the time and effort to study the needs of the fields, keep them before us, pray for them, and show our concern by our deeds.

God is calling on us to alert ourselves to the many opportunities for service that lie at our door. They are too numerous to list...but God will show us His will if we stay in tune with him.

There is a kind of sixth sense in a woman that can feel the approach of tragedy and emergency. Surely, our church, and our nation is facing a day of extremity and emergency such as it has never seen in its history.

If we do not recognize the perils surrounding us in these perilous times, we will utterly fail the Lord. It is not a time to sit down and mourn our failures--it is time to get up, to stir ourselves and get ready to meet the challenge of the future.

When the body of Christ lay in the Garden tomb, the disciples went away sorrowfully, mourning because of the loss of their leader. All hope had died in their hearts. They had surrendered to their despair.

But early on Sunday Morning, a little group of faithful women wended their way through the narrow streets of Jerusalem to the Garden. They were on their way to render a service to one, who, so far as they knew, could never recompense them for their service. These women wanted to serve for the joy

of serving...because they loved. That has been the spirit of every good woman of all time. *To women of this caliber, nothing is impossible.*

It is only when we meet every discouragement with faith, hope, and love, that we can and will conquer. When we imbibe the spirit of these women...forgetting ourselves in our service to our Master...serving because we love, we will find as they did that we are serving a risen Lord, who still answers prayer, and will lead us on from victory to victory.

Joseph and Nicodemus performed the usual duty when they anointed the body of Jesus after His death. Out of their abundance of wealth, they may have spent a hundred times more on the ointment they used than did Mary on her little alabaster box...yet the historian in leaving the record only mentioned the deed of the rich man in passing, but of the timely deed of Mary, he quoted Jesus Christ as saying:

"Wherever this Gospel shall be preached, what she did will be told as a memorial to her. By her spiritual insight into the on-moving of God's plan for the ages, she performed a deed that immortalized her name. So it has been with spiritual women of all time, and so it must be with us today.

*If you would help your church to fulfill its mission in this hour.*  
If we would save our church from the tragedy of our day, we must pierce the darkness and discern the ~~six~~ signs of our times, and if needs be, become expendable to the utmost for the greater good

"Oh to be spent for Jesus,  
Living a life outpoured...  
Doing His service holy,  
Broken before the Lord;  
Waiting His precious bidding,  
Listening for His voice,  
Yielded, and still, and steady,  
Filling the place of His choice.

Oh, to be spent for Jesus...  
Never a power reserved;  
Treasures so dear, so costly,  
Given unto the Lord.

Channels that carry His rivers  
Empty must be, and clean;  
Wires that send His message have  
No disconnection between.

Lives that give sweetest perfume,  
Pressure and breaking know;  
Would'st thou give forth His fragrance?  
Thro' garden shadows go.

The box alabaster ~~was~~ unbroken,  
No sweetness can ever give;  
The lives that are spent for Jesus  
Forever in richness live."