

**Encounter | Week 4 - What is Holding You Back?****Big Idea**

Jesus is worthy of all our devotion.

**Scripture**

Mark 14:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, and Philippians 2:6-11

**Points to Keep In Mind**

1. In Mark 14:1-11, the nard within this alabaster jar that the woman broke open was incredibly costly. The value of the oil would have equaled an average year's wages. It was likely passed down to this woman through generations, and there's a good chance it was part of her dowry for marriage. It represented financial stability, social standing, and family inheritance. In today's terms, this was like the woman had just emptied her 401k. It was clearly an extravagant act of worship toward Jesus.
2. Jesus upholds the woman's act of anointing him with expensive perfume, emphasizing the significance of her love and devotion. His focus is on spiritual and relational matters, while the disciples' concern is with practicality and economic issues. There is a time to care for people experiencing poverty, as Jesus states and models to his disciples for most of his earthly ministry; it's just not in this moment.
3. Mark 11:1-11 has Jesus entering Jerusalem triumphantly, and the people welcome him with praise. They are declaring Jesus king with their cloaks and palm branches. In Mark 14:1-11, three days later, a woman anoints Jesus with expensive perfume, declaring him her king. She may have been the only follower of Jesus who understood what would happen to him in just a few days as she was preparing him for burial and showing her love and gratitude to her king.
4. In this beautiful hymn in Philippians, the Apostle Paul writes that Jesus went "all in" on our behalf. Jesus held nothing back. May we hold nothing back from him.

**Additional resources**

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**What's going on this week?**

visit [communitychristian.info](http://communitychristian.info)