SERMON NOTES: NOVEMBER 15, 2026

Pastor John Tittle | Doing Something Beautiful | Mark 14:3-9 NIV

1. What would you like to be known for? Has your answer to that question changed over the years?
2. In Mark's gospel, the named twelve disciples often misunderstand Jesus, but many of the most faithful disciples in Mark's gospel are nameless. What might the meaning of this be?
3. In the movie Babette's Feast, Babette spends everything she has on a single meal, and a bitter, divided community is softened and reconciled at the feast. Have you ever witnessed or received an act of generosity so extravagant that it changed the people around it?
4. The dinner takes place at the home of Simon the Leper, and the woman arrives as an uninvited outsider. Why do you think Jesus so often chose to spend time with outsiders?
5. The guests' objection sounds reasonable: the perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor. When have you been so focused on being practical or responsible that you missed something important happening right in front of you?
6. Jesus says, "She has done a beautiful thing to me." Why did Jesus choose this word?
7. The woman broke the alabaster jar rather than simply pouring a little out. What might it mean for us to "break the jar" in our own devotion to Christ?
8. There is a difference between chronos (clock time) and kairos (seasonal, God-appointed time). The woman recognized that this was not an ordinary night. How do we learn to recognize kairos moments? Have you ever been prompted by God to act in a moment you hadn't planned for?
9. "She did what she could with what she had." How does this phrase free us from comparing ourselves with what others give or do?
10. What might your "unique giving language" be? How might you become more conversive in it?
11. There is a connection between the broken alabaster jar and Jesus' body broken on the cross. How does seeing her gift as a foreshadowing of Christ's extravagant and sacrificial love deepen your understanding of what Christ has done on the cross?