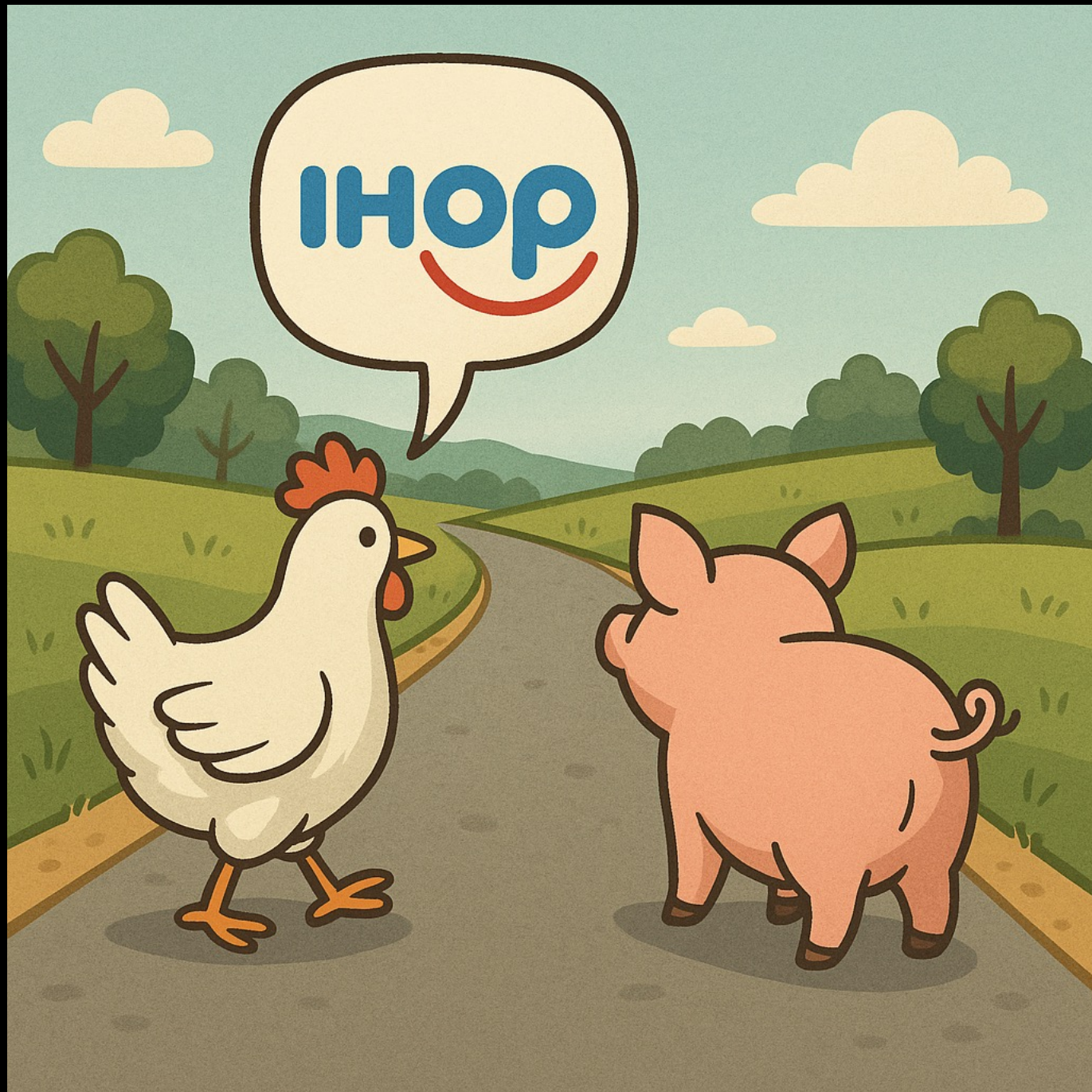


A painting depicting a serene scene at sunset. In the foreground, two men are kneeling on a sandy beach, looking down at something in their hands. The man on the left has a beard and is wearing a brown robe, while the man on the right is wearing a blue robe. Behind them, a wooden boat with a single mast and rigging is pulled up onto the shore. The background features a calm sea, distant hills, and a large, bright sun setting on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the entire scene. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

Following Jesus on the Way
The Fragrance of Devoted Commitment
Mark 14:1-11

Mike Hogue
October 26, 2025



Commitment

A *decision of the will*, a promise, or a pledge to remain faithful

Devotion

Affectionate allegiance, love through attention, priority and adoration

The why we stay, not just that we stay. Emotional, relational, and personal.

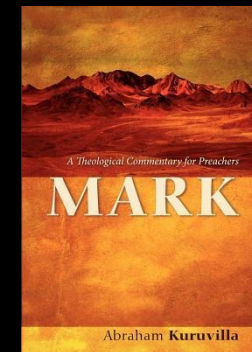
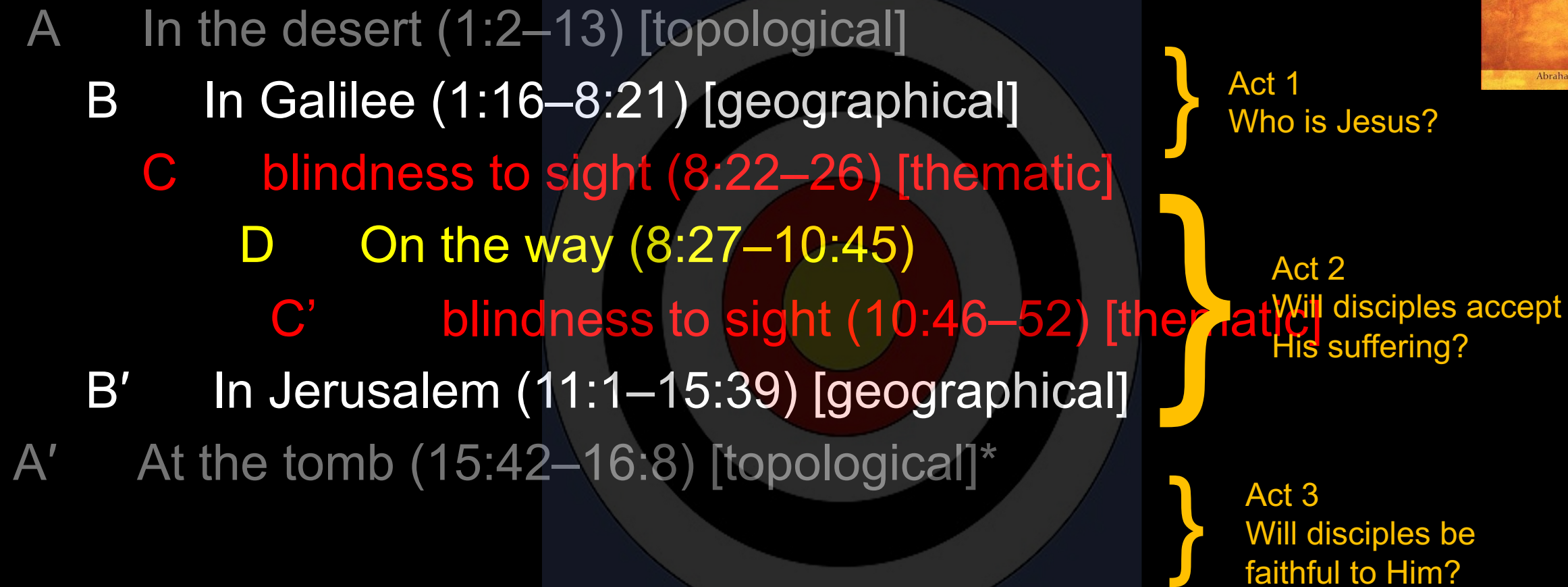
Relationship

Commitment without devotion = duty without delight

Devotion without commitment = enthusiasm without endurance

Devoted commitment = steadfast commitment anchored by devotion

Structure of Mark



Mark 12:41-44 A woman sacrifices

Mark 13 Remember the Future

Mark 14:1-11 A woman
sacrifices



**MARK
14:1-2**

**MARK
14:3-9**

MARK 14:10-11

MARK 14:3-9

MARK 14:1-2, 10-11	MARK 14:3-9
Judas, a named man, one of the Twelve In Jerusalem; temple precincts Money: unspecified sum promised Priests rejoice and reward Judas Judas gives up Jesus for money Betrayed unto death Remembered as betrayer	An unnamed woman In Bethany; home of Simon, a leper Money: worth more than 300 denarii Some indignant and censorious Woman gives up “money” for Jesus Anointed unto burial Remembered with the gospel

Mark 14:1-11

The Fragrance of Devoted Commitment

1. Devoted commitment is _____ (14:1-3)
2. Devoted commitment is _____ (14:3, 5)
3. Devoted commitment invites _____ (14:4-5)
4. Devoted commitment _____ (14:6-8)
5. Devoted commitment is _____
by the Lord (14:6-8)

The Fragrance of Devoted Commitment

1. Devoted commitment is courageous (14:1-3)
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by the Lord (14:6-8)

¹Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread were two days away; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize Him **by stealth** and kill *Him*;

Mark 14:1 (NASB95)

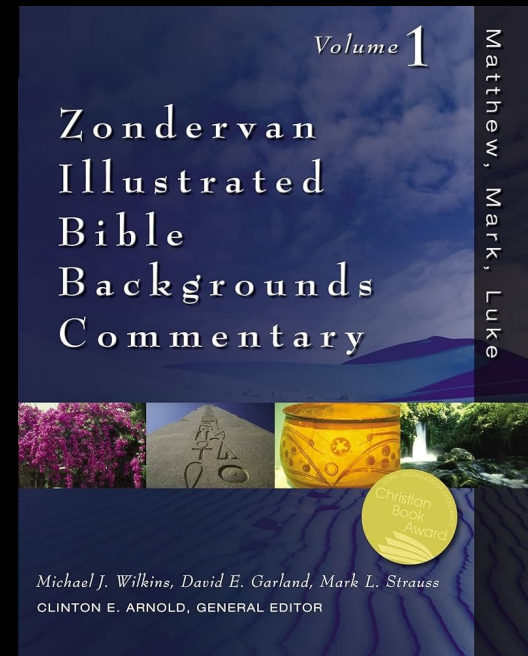
²for they were saying, “Not during the festival, otherwise there might be a riot of the people.”

Mark 14:2 (NASB95)

³While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining *at the table*, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; *and* she broke the vial and poured it over His head.

Mark 14:3 (NASB95)

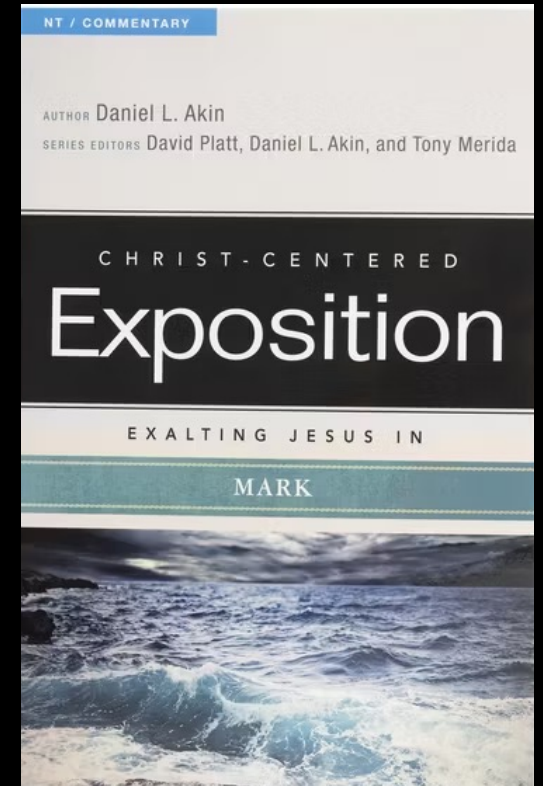
A social divide existed between male space and female space in the ancient world. Men and women did not intermingle even in the home. Women only crossed into the public male world to wait on men and then retreated.



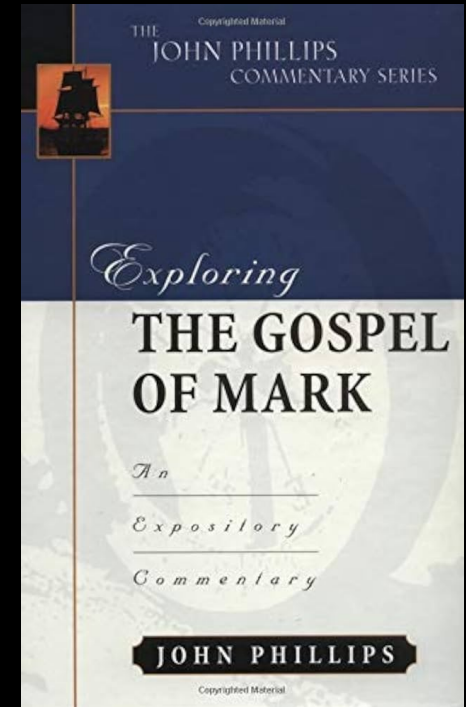
³While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining *at the table*, **there came a woman** with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; *and* she broke the vial and poured it over His head.

Mark 14:3 (NASB95)

A woman normally would not approach a man in this public-meal setting except to serve him food. [This woman] cared not one whit for cultural conventions. Jesus was her Lord and Master. She deeply loved Him and would have done anything for Him. She wanted everyone to know the inestimable value she placed on Jesus. So she went public!



Evidently, the woman herself flinched under their attack. **It must have required considerable thought, resolution, and courage in the first place** for her to carry out this sacrificial and public act of worship.



²⁵A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years, ²⁶and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse— ²⁷after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind *Him* and touched His cloak.

Mark 5:25–27 (NASB95)

²⁵But after hearing of Him, a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately came and fell at His feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of the Syrophoenician race. And she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

Mark 7:25–26 (NASB95)

⁵⁰And they all left Him and fled.

Mark 14:50 (NASB95)

¹³Now as they observed the **confidence** of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and *began* to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13 (NASB95)

¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

1 John 4:18 (NASB95)

The Fragrance of Devoted Commitment

1. Devoted commitment is courageous (14:1-3)
2. Devoted commitment is _____ (14:3, 5)
3. Devoted commitment invites _____ (14:4-5)
4. Devoted commitment _____ (14:6-8)
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by the Lord (14:6-8)

The Fragrance of Devoted Commitment

1. Devoted commitment is courageous (14:1-3)
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³While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining *at the table*, there came a woman with **an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard**; *and* she broke the vial and poured it over His head.

Mark 14:3 (NASB95)

alabaster vial...

alabaster vial...

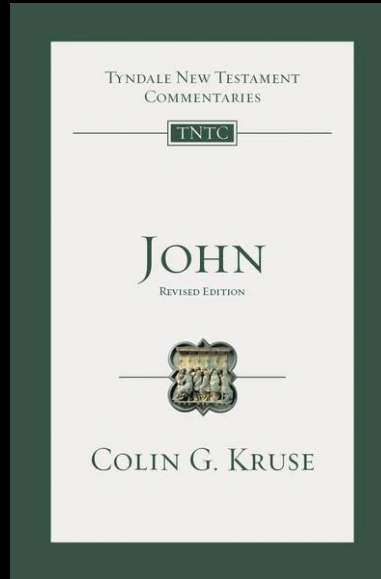
...of perfume

alabaster vial...

...of perfume

...of nard

Nard is an extract from an aromatic Nepalese plant, *Nardostachys jatamansi*. The perfume was expensive because it was imported from a great distance, as well as having to be extracted from plant material. The process of extraction usually involved large amounts of plant material yielding only a little aromatic oil.



alabaster vial...

...of perfume

...of nard

...pure

ΠΙΣΤΙΚΌΣ *pistikos*

faithful Artemid. 2.32 *etc.* || *pass.*

credible, trustworthy Epiph. Haer.

66.3.9 *etc.* || **genuine, pure** Greg.1

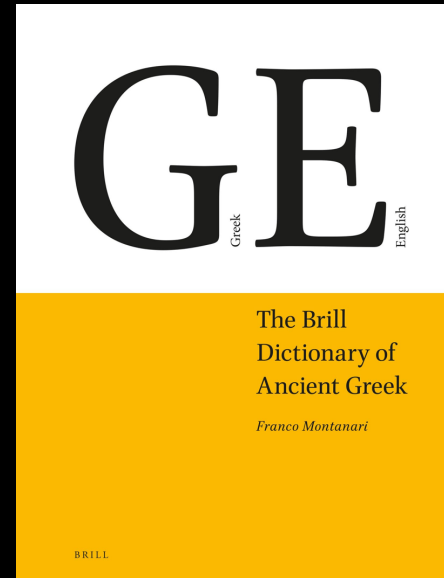
Cant 3 (92.10) *etc.* *adv.* πιστικῶς

faithfully: π. ἔχειν πρὸς ἀλλήλους

to be faithful to one another Plut.

Pel. 8.2 | **credibly or convincingly**

Hld. 3.9 (*superl.* -ώτατα).



²In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NASB95)

alabaster vial...

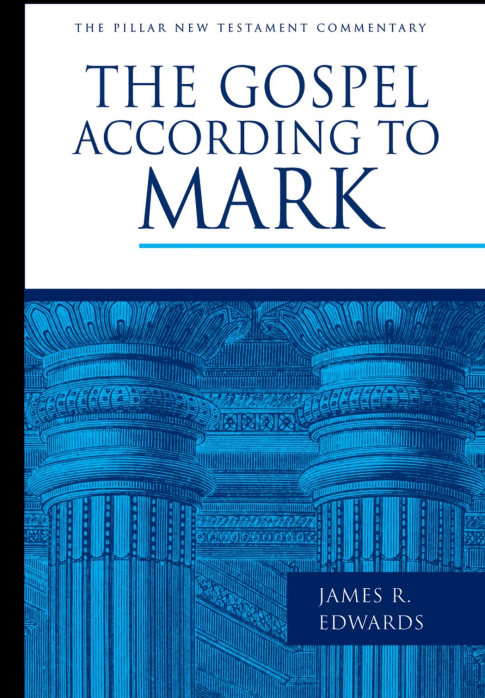
...of perfume

...of nard

...pure

...costly

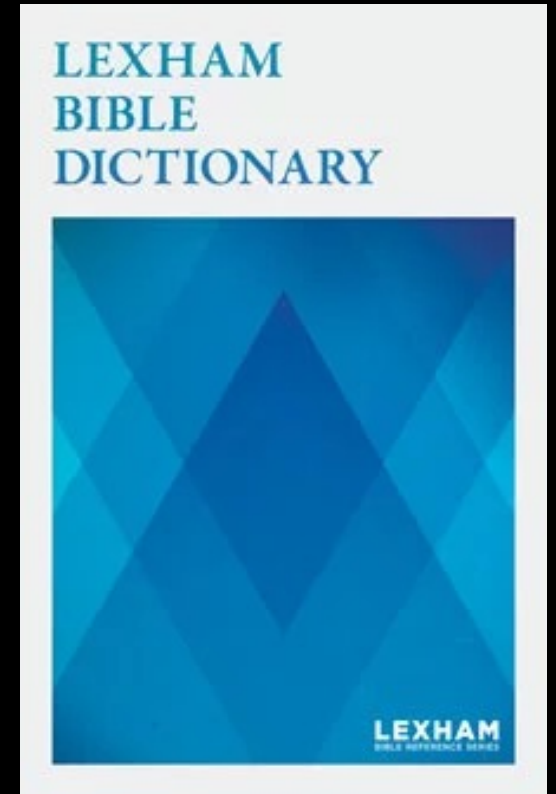
Mark stumbles over himself in Greek to convey the value of the nard, an expensive aromatic oil extracted from the root of an Indian herb of the same name (see Cant 1:12; 4:13–14). The guests present are understandably shocked by the anointing, estimating the vial of nard to be worth more than three hundred denarii.



⁵“For this perfume might have been sold for **over three hundred denarii**, and *the money* given to the poor.” And they were scolding her.

Mark 14:5 (NASB95)

DENARIUS (δηνάριον, dēnarion). A Roman silver coin. The equivalent of a **typical daily wage** (e.g., Matt 18:28; 20:2–13; 22:19; Mark 6:37; Luke 7:41; John 6:7; Rev 6:6).



Federal holidays in 2024-25: [How many days off employees get this year](#)

How many working days in a year?

For a traditional five-day workweek, there are 260 working days in a year. Without accounting for time off, that means you spend approximately 71% of your year working.



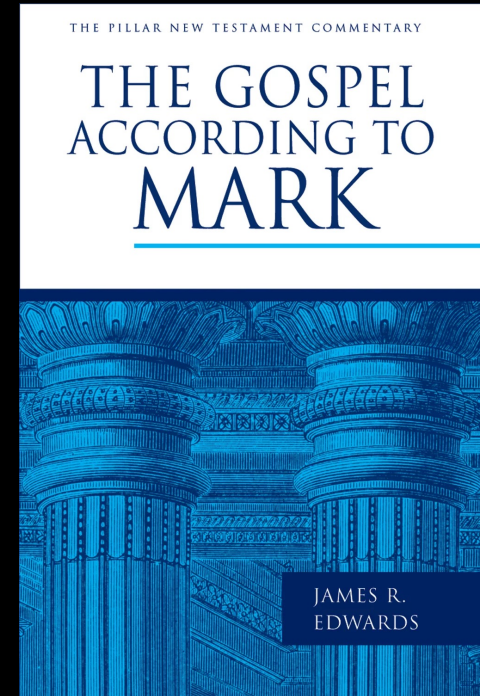
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Key takeaways

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), American workers made a median wage of \$1,139 per week in the first quarter of 2024, which would add up to \$59,228 per year.¹

\$74,035

The nard was very probably a family heirloom, in which case it possessed a sentimental value in addition to its monetary value.



³While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining *at the table*, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; *and she broke the vial* and poured it over His head.

Mark 14:3 (NASB95)

⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. ⁴³Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury;

Mark 12:42–43 (NASB95)

⁴⁴for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, **all she had to live on.**”

Mark 12:44 (NASB95)

The Fragrance of Devoted Commitment

1. Devoted commitment is courageous (14:1-3)
2. Devoted commitment is costly (14:3, 5)
3. Devoted commitment invites _____ (14:4-5)
4. Devoted commitment _____ (14:6-8)
5. Devoted commitment is _____
by the Lord (14:6-8)

The Fragrance of Devoted Commitment

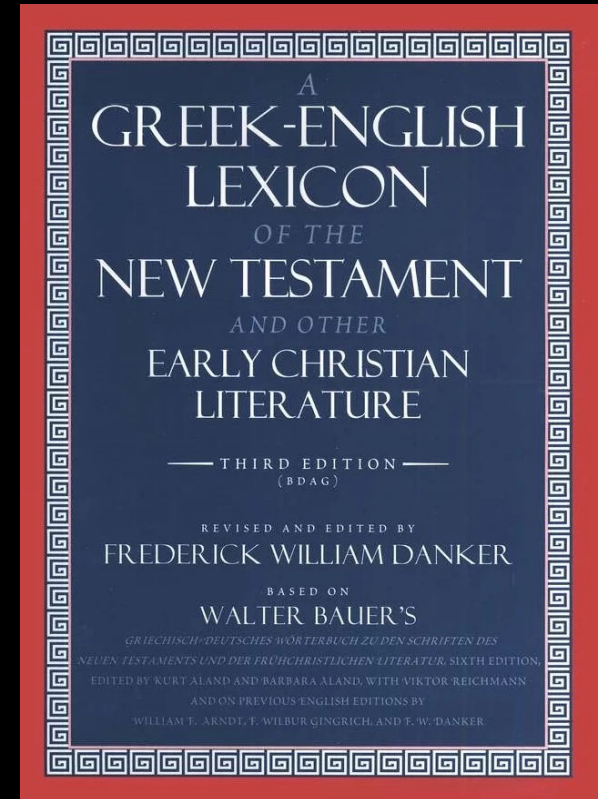
1. Devoted commitment is courageous (14:1-3)
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by the Lord (14:6-8)

⁴But some were indignantly
remarking to one another, “Why has
this perfume been wasted? ⁵“For this
perfume might have been sold for
over three hundred denarii, and *the*
money given to the poor.” And they
were scolding her.

Mark 14:4–5 (NASB95)

ἀγανακτέω (*aganaktéō*)

**be indignant against
what is assumed to be
wrong, *be aroused,
indignant, angry***



⁴But some were indignantly *remarking* to one another, “Why has this perfume been wasted? ⁵“For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and *the money* given to the poor.” And they were **scolding** her.

Mark 14:4–5 (NASB95)

⁴But some were indignantly *remarking* to one another, “Why has this perfume been **wasted**? ⁵“For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and *the money* given to the poor.” And they were scolding her.

Mark 14:4–5 (NASB95)

¹⁴But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NASB95)

¹⁸“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before *it hated you*. ¹⁹“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

John 15:18–19 (NASB95)

The Fragrance of Devoted Commitment

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The Fragrance of Devoted Commitment

1. Devoted commitment is courageous (14:1-3)
2. Devoted commitment is costly (14:3, 5)
3. Devoted commitment invites criticism (14:4-5)
4. Devoted commitment comprehends (14:6-8)
5. Devoted commitment is _____
by the Lord (14:6-8)

4. Devoted commitment comprehends (14:6-8)

A. The _____ of Jesus

B. The _____ of Jesus

4. Devoted commitment comprehends (14:6-8)

A. The worth of Jesus

B. The _____ of Jesus

⁷“For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them; **but you do not always have Me.**

Mark 14:7 (NASB95)

¹⁹Or **do you not know that** your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, **and that you are not your own?** ²⁰**For you have been bought with a price:** therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NASB95)

¹⁸knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.

1 Peter 1:18–19 (NASB95)

⁷But whatever things were gain to me,
those things I have counted as loss for
the sake of Christ. ⁸More than that, I count
all things to be loss in view of the
surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus
my Lord, for whom I have suffered the
loss of all things, and count them but
rubbish so that I may gain Christ,
Philippians 3:7–8 (NASB95)

4. Devoted commitment comprehends (14:6-8)

A. The worth of Jesus

B. The _____ of Jesus

4. Devoted commitment comprehends (14:6-8)

A. The worth of Jesus

B. The way of Jesus

⁸“She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial.

Mark 14:8 (NASB95)

¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; ¹⁵and He died for all, **so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him** who died and rose again on their behalf.

2 Corinthians 5:14–15 (NASB95)

²⁰“I have been crucified with Christ;
and it is no longer I who live, but
Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I
now live in the flesh I live by faith in
the Son of God, who loved me and
gave Himself up for me.

Galatians 2:20 (NASB95)

¹³but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

1 Peter 4:13 (NASB95)

4. Devoted commitment comprehends (14:6-8)

A. The worth of Jesus

B. The way of Jesus

³⁴And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ³⁵“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. ³⁶“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?

Mark 8:34–36 (NASB95)

³⁴And _____ the _____ with _____
_____, and _____, “If _____
to _____ Me, he _____, and
_____ his _____ and _____. ³⁵“For
_____ to _____ his _____ will _____ it, but
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Mark 8:34–36 (NASB95)

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disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes
to come after Me, he must deny _____, and
_____ his _____ and _____. ³⁵“For
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Mark 8:34–36 (NASB95)

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disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes
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take up his cross and _____. ³⁵“For
_____ to _____ his _____ will _____ it, but
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_____ will _____ it. ³⁶“For what _____ it _____
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_____?

Mark 8:34–36 (NASB95)

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Mark 8:34-36

The Fragrance of Devoted Commitment

1. Devoted commitment is courageous (14:1-3)
2. Devoted commitment is costly (14:3, 5)
3. Devoted commitment invites criticism (14:4-5)
4. Devoted commitment comprehends (14:6-8)
5. Devoted commitment is _____
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⁶But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me.

Mark 14:6 (NASB95)

⁹“Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her.”

Mark 14:9 (NASB95)

²¹“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

Matthew 25:21 (NASB95)

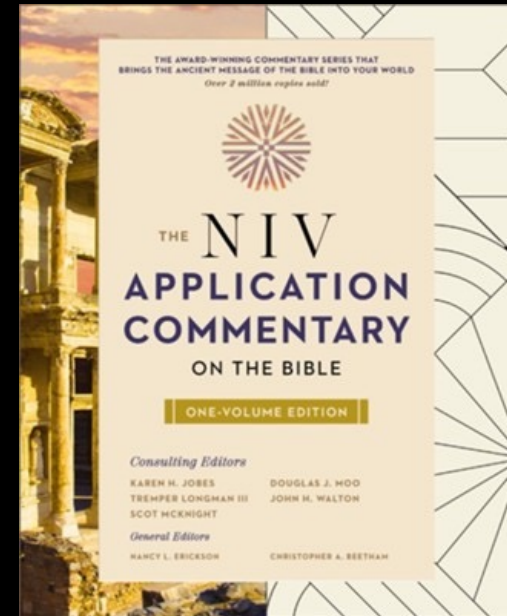
⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;
⁸in the future there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7–8 (NASB95)

¹⁰For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints.

Hebrews 6:10 (NASB95)

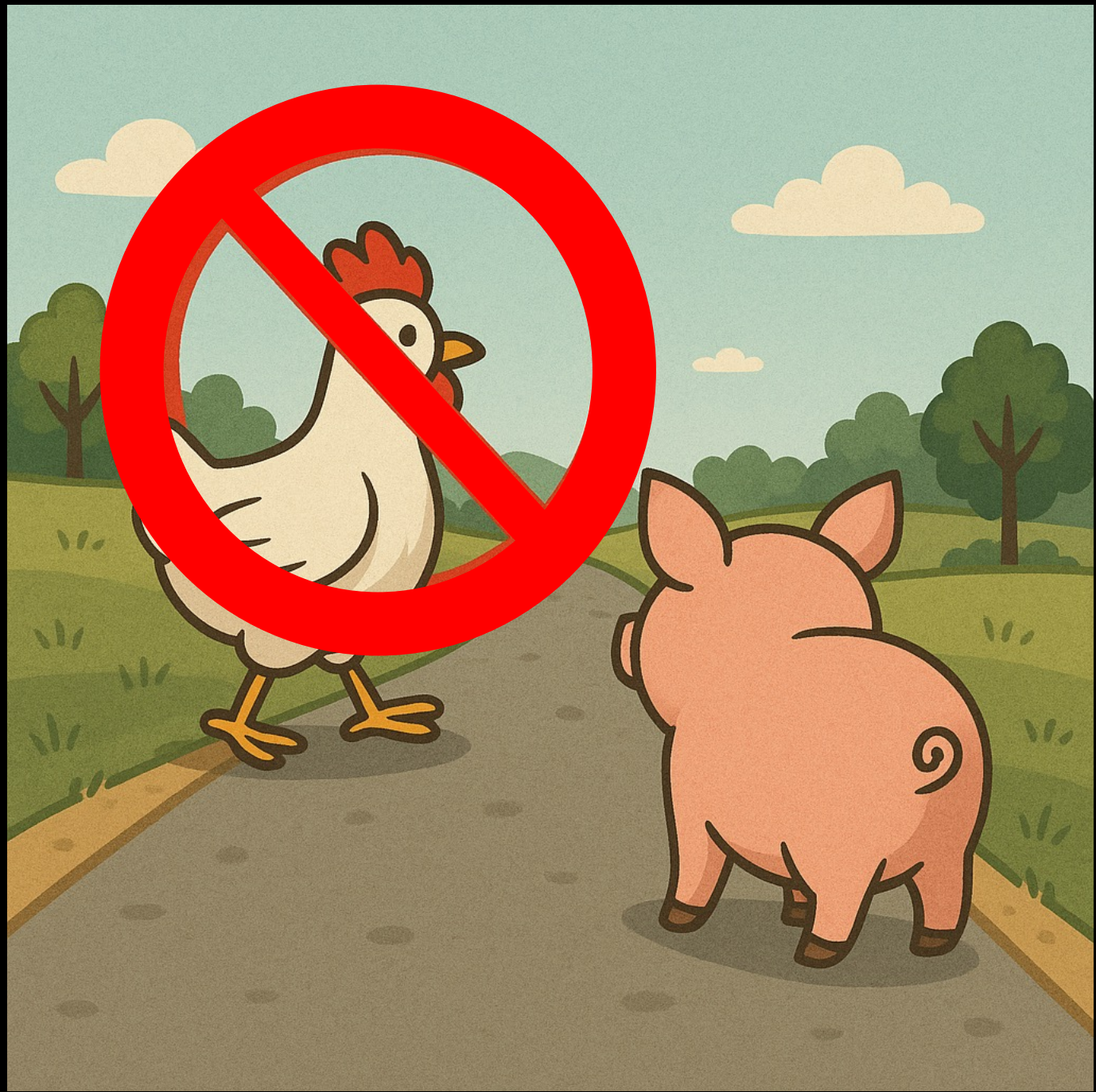
Jesus's commendation of this anonymous woman also reveals that one can never be fully aware of one's own significance or role in God's kingdom. The woman had no idea of the worldwide significance of her action, nor did the high priests, Judas, or Pontius Pilate. Albert Einstein said, "It is a tragic mistake for those in power to think that they are in control." It is also a mistake for us to think that our sacrificial devotion is wasteful or insignificant. Who knows how God will use it?



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Application



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Be a devoted, committed disciple who sacrificially lives out your life in worship.