

A background image of a field of lavender flowers in bloom, with purple spikes on green stems against a bright, slightly blurred background.

Wasting Precious Ointment

Mark 14:1-9

A Wasted Sacrifice?

- Mark 14:3-4 - “And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head. 4 But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, Why was this fragrant oil wasted?”

A Wasted Sacrifice?

- Matt. 26:7-9 - “a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. 8 But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, Why this waste? 9 For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor.”

A Wasted Sacrifice?

- John 12:4-6 - “Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 5 Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.”

A Wasted Sacrifice?

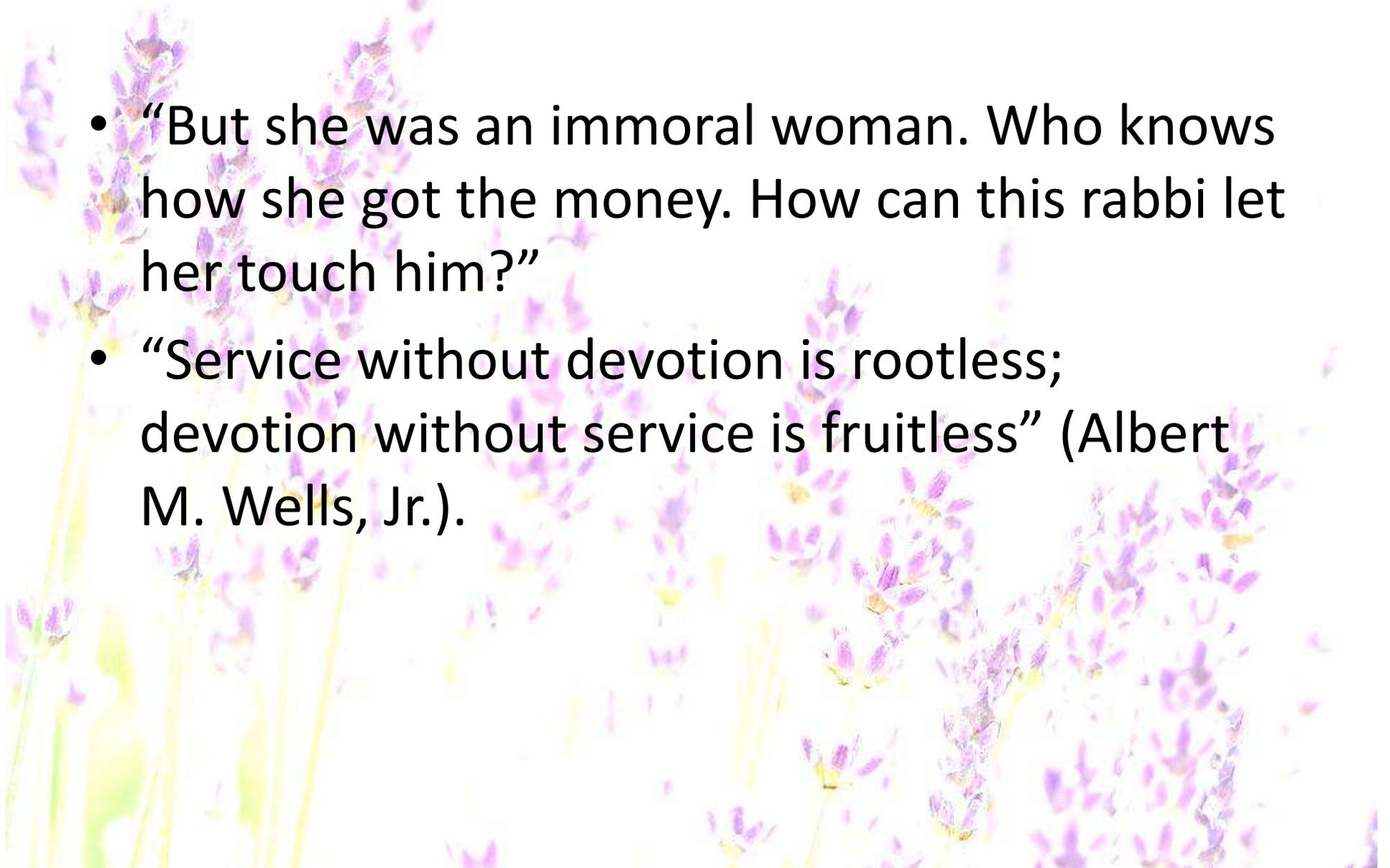
- 300 pence (denarii); a year's wages for a working man; in today's economy about \$30,000.00
- She gave all she had to Jesus
- Paul describes his life similarly
 - 2Tim. 4:6 - "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand."

A Wasted Service?

- Jesus said she did everything in her power
 - Mark 14:6-8 - “But Jesus said, Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. 7 For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. 8 She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.”

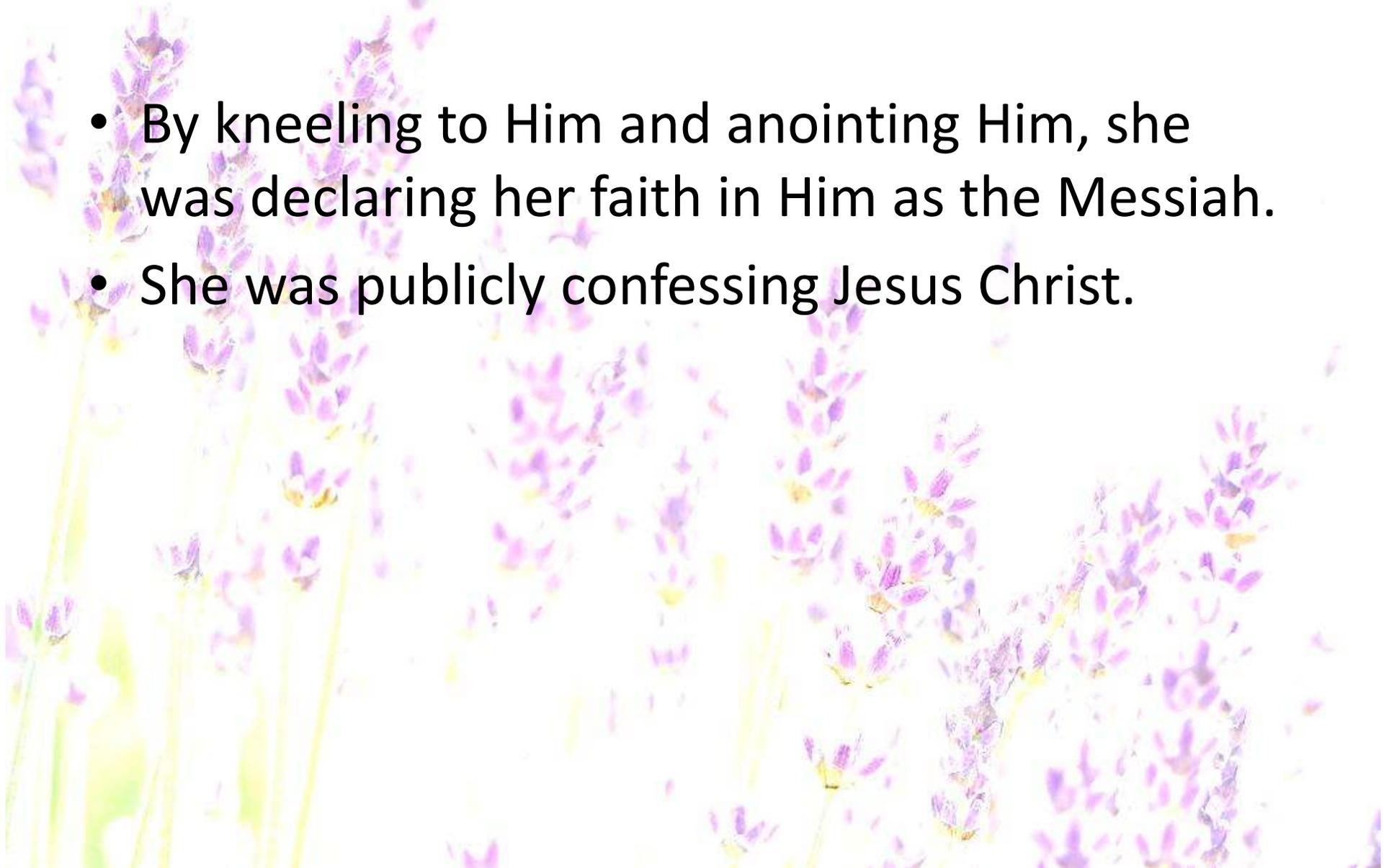
A Wasted Service?

- “But she was an immoral woman. Who knows how she got the money. How can this rabbi let her touch him?”
- “Service without devotion is rootless; devotion without service is fruitless” (Albert M. Wells, Jr.).



A Wasted Submission

- By kneeling to Him and anointing Him, she was declaring her faith in Him as the Messiah.
- She was publicly confessing Jesus Christ.



A Wasted Submission

- There were four classes of people anointed those day:
 - Kings - 2Kings 9:3
 - Priests - Ex. 29:7
 - Prophets - 1Kings 19:16
 - The dead - John 19:39-40; Luke 23:56; Mark 16:1

A Wasted Submission

- Jesus is all of those things.
 - He is the King of Kings
 - Rev. 19:16 - “And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”
 - He is the Great High Priest
 - Heb. 3:1 - “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,”

A Wasted Submission

- Jesus is all of those things.
 - He is the promised Prophet
 - Matt. 21:11 - “So the multitudes said, This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”
 - He was dead, but is alive forevermore
 - Rev. 1:18 - “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”

A Wasted Submission

- “Let others sacrifice, serve, and submit; I can’t afford to waste the ointment.”
- Everyone loves a servant, but no one wants to be one.
- Matt. 10:24-25 - “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!”