

Mary of Bethany

She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her. (Mark 14:8-9 NIV)

Whether we have done, what we could, will be evaluated by Him, when He returns. Now He has given us time for self-evaluation under His cross. Have you done, what you could? Does your congregation do, what it can? Are our Lutheran confessional churches ready to do, what they can in missions?

Outsiders were scolding Mary for her squandering. Louis Harm's preached this great Christian witness in Marburg (1860). A local farmer's wife was so moved by this, that she donated all the money she had to the Lord and for the conversion of heathens. Only later did she realize, she hadn't any money for the return trip left. People, who heard of her predicament, helped her out with the necessary funds for travel. Yet in the afternoon session, she listened to Harms again and yet again sacrificed her all and everything. She couldn't do otherwise. Who would scold her as wasteful? Who is put to shame by this example? Our Lord came up for Mary.

What she did for him, is to be told throughout the world, wherever this glad tidings is proclaimed. Whatever happens under four eyes between Him and us, ties us to the great salvation history of the lost amongst all nations. Even the smallest congregations and most isolated Christians are not alone or forgotten as long as they love Him, who loved us first. We are allowed to live, serve, thank in the midst of His entire saved congregation, that praises Him in heaven and on earth. Whatever body and soul are able to do, let us gladly and willingly put at his disposal for His service and glory!