



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

Volume 10

December 1, 2024

No. 48

## “She Has Done What She Could”

Devan Harber

“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. But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, ‘Why was this fragrant oil wasted? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.’ And they criticized her sharply. But Jesus said, ‘Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her’” (Mk. 14:3-9).

We get beat up. We get pushed around. We think we are big ol’ failures. Who knows, maybe we are.

“I couldn’t see a way to connect this conversation to Christ, but I was trying...”

“I tried to invite my friend, but they were cold and dismissive.”

“I’m trying to show them the truth...”

“I just don’t think I’ll ever get anywhere with them! But I am going to keep at it...”

“I can’t seem to help them, but I’m praying about it!”

“We talked about spiritual things, but I can’t make any headway — I’ll pray and keep trying.”

“I don’t think they will ever listen, but I know God does... I’ll pray and keep trying.”

Get out of your own head. Remember the statement Jesus makes: “She has done what she could...” Our God will ask no more of you. If you are trying — constantly, continually, courageously — YOU have done what you could. It’s hard to imagine this woman had ANY concept for the lasting impact of what she was doing. To the point Jesus even says, “Wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will be told as a memorial to her...” Just a little thing — yet her efforts ended up as part of the greatest event in human history.

You may never fully know the depth of impact you had on a person. You may never see them again. You may never even hear about how they are doing. Yet, through your faithful efforts (teaching, implying, example-setting, encouragement, etc) you quite possibly could walk the streets of glory with them in the eternal day.

***Keep your head up my friend. The work you’re doing is a good work!***

Northwest Beaumont, TX

# The Impact of Knowing God

Jeremy Dehut

**Neh. 8:6** - *"And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground."*

What a day to be present at the worship of God! The remnant of Israel that returned to Jerusalem from captivity had rebuilt the temple (**Ezra**), and had just witnessed God's provision as they labored to complete the rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls (**Neh. 1-7**), now they were about to undergo an intense spiritual remodeling project that began with a public reading of the Law of Moses (**Neh. 8-13**).

This text stands to most readers for several reasons:

- We see the forethought that was given to everyone successfully hearing God's word as it was read by everyone gathering in one place and providing an elevated place for the reader (**Neh. 8:1, 4, 5**).
- We see the emphasis and planning that went into helping everyone understand what was read by the selection and placement of multiple Levites within the crowd to help interpret and expound on what was read (**Neh. 8:2, 3, 7, 8**).
- We see the reverential and enthusiastic response of those who heard God's word (**Neh. 8:5, 6, 9-11**).
- We see the practical impact the reading had on those who heard and understood as their mourning was turned to joy and then went home and celebrated the fulfilled blessings of God (**Neh. 8:12**).

How did God's word make such an impact on a group of people? What are we to learn from this day of historic significance? I think the answer is found in how Ezra addressed God.

*"Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God."*

This small group of Israelites understood something about God! Their desire to understand Moses' Law was because of a deep appreciation of WHO had given that Law! Their reverential response to Ezra opening the book was because of WHO was about to speak to them. It wasn't Ezra, but Jehovah! What calmed them down during their mourning after the Law revealed why Israel had been disciplined? The comprehension and commitment that they were now living to bring their Lord joy and that renewed relationship and perspective strengthened them (**2 Cor. 5:9**)! The Israelites' response to the Law reminds me of how the Thessalonians accepted the gospel as *"the word of God"* (**1 Thess. 2:13**).

What should we learn from the Israelites of Nehemiah's day? That if the Bible is going to be effective and produce God-desired fruit in my life, then I need to have a fervent and reverent appreciation for WHO is speaking. As Nehemiah recorded, the One speaking is *"the LORD, the great God"*!