

January

AN EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN

The Woman with the Alabaster Box

Luke 7:36-38

The Root word of extraordinary is **Ordinary**. To be ordinary is to be regular, normal, customary, usual, commonplace, every day, familiar, average, same old – SAME OLD. You know ordinary; nothing fancy; nothing different. Ordinary, the things you do without thinking; business as usual. The people who never change; never making a mark on life. No 6 thousand square feet homes; no Bentleys in the drive way. Just ordinary people.

EXTRA is the additional, to go further, the added amount. When you add the prefix 'extra' to the word Ordinary it completely changes the meaning of the word. There is nothing Ordinary about our God. God is EXTRAORDINARY! God is Supernatural! When He adds His Super to our Natural we become Supernatural – we become extraordinary. We can cast out devils, speak with new tongues, drink deadly things and not be harmed, lay hands on the sick and they recover. No longer do we have to walk or live in the ordinary. We serve an Extraordinary God!

God initiates His work with Ordinary people and He makes them Extraordinary. Our job is to make ourselves available to God. You don't have to be an ordinary usher. Be the best usher that God is calling for. Allow God to place His Stamp of Approval on your ordinary and see what happens. You don't have to be an ordinary choir member. You can be one of the best choir member in the choir stand: you attend choir rehearsal, you are on time, you obey the rules. You are extraordinary!

The New Testament tells us of two, among others, extraordinary Women who owned a valuable stone box made of marble that held a precious ointment. This ointment was used to anoint the feet of their Savior Jesus Christ.

This ointment was housed in an ALABASTER BOX. The word 'Alabastron' from Greek translation refers to a very expensive perfume vase; flask or jar. Alabaster was a hard carved stone resembling white marble. It was considered a precious stone. The Alabaster box kept its contents pure and unspoiled. God requires a sacrifice of Praise that is both honest and true. My praise must be undefiled and unspoiled. When I sin I spoil my praise. It must be pure. It is what I owe God. Can't come up short, I owe Him a pure praise.

My praise must come from the bottom of my heart in a special place; from the depths of my soul; in my personal alabaster box. I owe God PURE Praise. Can't give Him praise that is phony and for show. He's been too good to me to give Him less. I owe God a

uncontaminated and untainted praise. He paid for my praise on Calvary. I owe Him my best praise. The oil in which He has anointed me cost Him his life. It is the Oil of the Holy Ghost. Christ died so that I could be SAVED, SANCTIFIED AND FILLED with the Holy Ghost.

CeCe Winans sings:

*"You weren't there the night Jesus found me
You did not feel what I felt
When He wrapped His loving arms around me and
You don't know the cost of the oil
Oh, you don't know the cost of my praise
You don't know the cost of the oil
In my alabaster box!"*

The Bible speaks of these two women who anointed the feet of Jesus: Mary of Bethany, according to Matthew, Mark and John, and then there was the Woman of [Luke 7:37](#). Though both acted from a sincere heart, their personalities and reasons for anointing Jesus were different. One was at the house of a leper and the other at the house of a Pharisee. One prepared Jesus to die on the cross and the other was preparing for forgiveness of her many sins. One's name was given: Mary of Bethany and the other remained anonymous; she was just an Ordinary Woman.

Mary of Bethany is not labeled a 'sinner' but the [Luke 7:37](#) Woman is. Mary of Bethany came in preparation of her Lord and Savior going to the cross. Jesus said, "She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial." [Mark 14:8](#). She was not weeping as she carried out her mission. However, she was an **Extraordinary Woman!**