

*"And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on His head." Mark 14:3 KJV*



Spikenard was a burial spice, saved up for over a long period of time, and purchased for one's own burial. Alabaster was a common stone, easily carved, and made into very beautiful polished containers. But *"there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, 'Why was this waste of the ointment made? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor.'* Jesus said, *'Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. She is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.'* A penny was approximately a day's wages, so something that cost three hundred pennyworth like this spice box, was almost a year's wages. It was a very pungent spice used to cover the smell of decaying corpses for a few days until the sepulcher or tomb was finally sealed. The fragrance filled the whole house. She had to break the box to open it as it was sealed, and meant to be opened and used only once. The Holy Spirit fills our common "alabaster boxes" with a sweet smelling fragrance of Holiness if we would submit to God's Word. *"The anointing which ye have received of Him (the Holy Spirit) abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is Truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him (obey God's Word)."* While we may be ordinary, what our vessel holds is "most precious," if we hold God's Word in our thoughts and *"pray without ceasing."* Unceasing prayer is essentially staying in conversation with God. He speaks to us through His Word in our hearts. We are instructed, *"in all thy ways acknowledge Him (God) and He shall direct thy path (influence your actions)."* Through the keeping of God's Word in our thoughts, *"meditate (thinking) therein day and night,"* God shapes and polishes us to be a fit containers of Holiness.

We, by God, for work are chosen,  
His Word through us to others spoken,  
If we let ourselves be broken,  
Our lives will be perfuming lotions. ~CGP

When God "breaks" us and releases the fragrance of holiness (obedience), the *"Body of Christ,"* the Assembly, is anointed with Divine ointment of our selfless deeds and *"love of the brethren."* Love is an action, not an emotion. Loving the brethren is doing what Christ would do, having the *"mind of Christ"* which is the God's Word in our thoughts. The smell of sin is forever covered by the precious perfume of the Blessed Holy Spirit *"guiding us into ALL Truth,"* erasing the stink of sin's decay, *"for where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty!"* That's why it's so important to meet with the shut-ins, to pray, fellowship, and worship together with them. *"Where two or three are gathered (assembled) in my name, there am I in the midst."* Let's follow our Saviour's example, and *"break the box,"* so the *"anointing"* can do His work. *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, (obey God's Word) holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."* Taking up your cross means; doing it God's way not yours! And you will, if you *"meditate therein (think about God's Word) day and night. Talk of them when thou sittest...when thou walkest...when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."*

*"And when he had given thanks, He brake it, and said, 'Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.'" 1 Corinthians 11:24*