

SHE HATH DONE WHAT SHE COULD

In Mk 14:1-9 the above words were spoken in defense of a woman who anointed Jesus. Some suggest that this could possibly be Mary the sister of Martha recorded in Jhn 12:3. Both accounts occur in Bethany. The account in Mark says they were in the house of Simon the leper. Yet, in John it says Martha was serving which to me would indicate they possibly were in her house. So, we really do not know if the two accounts are one and the same. Both of the accounts, however, illustrate an act of devotion showing the person's love for the Lord. Our purpose here is to draw a lesson from the statement "She hath done what she could", made in Mk 14:8 about this woman and ask ourselves the question, Have I done what I can?

This act of devotion was unique in many ways. It was an ingenious act. This woman was following no command, custom or example. Certainly, I am not suggesting we are not to heed the commands or examples found in Scripture, but in many areas we do have liberty and can act on our own judgment. This woman saw something that in her judgment needed to be done which did not violate anything God had commanded and that would show devotion to the Lord, so she did it. Her action was timely in nature. She did not wait for the death of the Lord to express her affections. The text says "she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying".

This act by this woman was also a very generous one. This ointment was worth between forty and fifty dollars which would be a little less than a year's wages at the time. It could possibly be all her savings. She gave her best to the Lord. You will also notice that it was not done in secret, it was a public act. However, she did not go around and tell everyone what she intended to do. (Notice Matt 6:1, 2 in regard to this.) She preformed this act of devotion without making a big-to-do about it. This was an act of love or prompted by love.

What hinders us from doing what we can? Paul asked the Galatians what hindered them from obeying the truth. Gal. 5:7. These Galatians were already Christians, because Paul said "Ye did run well", but something was hindering their obedience. What hinders us from doing what we can in our service to the Lord? Sometimes criticism hinders us. They criticized this woman, but she did not allow this to stop her. Sometimes our excuses hinder us. We say: "I can do so little, so I will do nothing". I am sure there were many things this woman could not do, but she did what she could. We can all do our best. Sometimes we say: "Others do so little, so I will do nothing". The apostle Paul teaches us in 2Cor 10:12 not to measure ourselves by others. What we do, we do for the Lord Eph 6:6, 7. Sometimes it is the kind of life we live that hinders us from doing what we can. We might need to get rid of that "big old log" in our eye so we can see what needs to be done Matt 7:3-5.

We just must do what we can for the lord. We must first give Him what he desires most of all - ourselves 2Cor 8:5. Love is active 1Cor 13:4-7. A person cannot love without showing that love. Here are some suggestions for doing what you can for the Lord. Do what you can with your attendance Heb 10:25. Do what you can by praying 1Thess 5:17. Do what you can in speaking for the Lord: Andrew brought Peter Jhn 1:41; Philip brought Nathanael Jhn 1:45. Wherever we go we must preach Christ Acts 8:4. If you don't do what YOU can, it will not be done. No one can do what you can do in the way you can do it.

So, we ask the question "What are you doing"? The word "**WHAT**" in the question suggest there is something for you to do. There is something in: Bible study, worship services, at home, society, business, saving the lost, comforting the sorrowing, strengthen the faith of the weak, restoring the unfaithful and visiting (seeing after) those who are in need. Obviously the forgoing is not an exhaustive list, I am sure you can think of other things.

The word "**ARE**" in the question suggest a sense of urgency in performing work

for the Lord. Now is the time Jhn 9:4. Yesterday is past; tomorrow may never come; today is here. The word "YOU" in the question suggest the nature of the work is individual. This is a personal question which applies to all of us. The word "DOING" indicates the activity involved. The measure of our responsibility is our ability plus our opportunity. Do something TODAY 2Cor 6:2.

Have you and have I taxed our resources to do our best for the Lord? Only when we **do what we can**, do we have the approval of the Lord! (JLH)