

Sunday 23rd march 2025

Theme: Living in God's covenant

Topic: *Being a faithful steward for the Kingdom*

Texts: John 12:1-7

Preacher: **Sister JUDITH**

Living in God's covenant calls us to a life of stewardship. We are not owners, but caretakers, entrusted with the resources and blessings God has bestowed upon us. Today, we'll explore what it means to be a faithful steward for the Kingdom, drawing from the powerful example of Mary in John 12:1-7. This passage will guide us as we reflect on our roles as stewards, reminding us that everything, including ourselves, belongs to God.

In John 12:1-7, we see Mary demonstrating a profound act of stewardship. She poured out expensive perfume on Jesus, a gesture of extravagant love and devotion. However, where there is extravagance, the spirit of greed can also arise, seeking to exploit for selfish gain. Mary's act wasn't a sudden impulse; it was the fruit of a life cultivated in love for the Lord. This kind of faithful stewardship is characterized by several key qualities:

- **Compassion:** A true steward has compassion for others and the work of God. As James 2:14 reminds us, 'faith without works is dead.' We must show compassion in practical ways, using our resources to serve others.
- **Generosity:** Mary's generosity in pouring out the perfume was remarkable. Often, when asked to contribute to God's work, we may hesitate, worrying about where the resources will come from. But God, the owner of all, provides.
- **Contentment:** We must be content with what the Lord has given us, acknowledging that all we have belongs to Him. As Psalm 13 reminds us, we should not worry. Discontentment leads to regret and despair.
- **Gratitude:** A faithful steward is grateful, valuing and protecting what God has entrusted to them. As John 15:5 says, 'apart from me you can do nothing.' We are dependent on God and should acknowledge His provision.
- **Loyalty and Trustworthiness:** Like Joseph, who was elevated for his loyalty, we must be trustworthy stewards in every situation. God will defend those who choose to live in love and compassion.

Brothers and Sisters, as we reflect on Mary's example, let us strive to be faithful stewards of all that God has given us. Let us cultivate compassion, generosity, contentment, gratitude, and loyalty in our lives. May we focus not on the fleeting things of this world, but on the eternal treasures of the Kingdom. Let us commit to managing His resources with wisdom and love, knowing that one day, we will give an account of our stewardship. May God grant us the grace to live as faithful stewards, reflecting His love and glory in all we do.