Hearing –

Faith – faith should be normal why we are called believers – trust and confidence in God’s nature and his word -

One Thing

– Mary’s counterpart was King David -

Six days before we read again in the gospels about Mary of Bethany – all three of her appearances she is at the feet of Jesus …

“Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at the table. Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.” (John 12:1-3, ESV).

Mary, and Martha were sisters and their brother was Lazarus – most scholars believe that there parents had passed away, Martha was given the house for her inheritance, Mary a pound of expensive anointment – we don’t know what Lazarus received but he at least got a three day trip to heaven and back …

Six days before the cross, Jesus enters the town of Bethany, to the home of Simon who had been healed of leprosy. It was probable that the town was hosting a customary banquet in honor of Jesus who had done miraculous signs in their town. Martha was cooking a meal again, probably to thank Jesus for all that he had done for them.

Many had come to marvel at the deeds of Jesus. Mary brings her alabaster jar of costly ointment. This pure nard was worth a year’s wages. This was most certainly Mary’s dowry, representing her only hope for marriage. In this culture if she wastes this or uses this on something other than her future spouse she would have only two options. Either take care of Lazarus her brother, or beg and prostitute herself to survive. When she looks at these two choices, she understands the worth of Jesus! It is as if she was saying, “You are the priceless Son of God, worthy of all I have! I can risk and throw myself into your hands.”

When she looks at him she knows her choice.

Those present at the meal wanted Jesus to minister to them, but Mary wanted to minister to Jesus!

She pours out the ointment onto the head and feet of Jesus and then washes his feet with her hair, assuming the posture of servant. In this culture only servants wash feet! Everyone thought this was crazy. In that day, only prostitutes let their hair down in public. She was willing to suffer her reputation. She wasted her entire inheritance, her future, her livelihood, and her reputation on Him! It was her offering and gift of worship to the one she loved! The fragrance of Mary’s offering, Mary’s worship, filled the whole house, and prepared him for his burial.

This pound of costly ointment was so pungent, and fragrant that it would stay on the body for up to week. As Jesus hung on the cross, describe experience here …

in the midst of terrible anguish, he could still breathe in glorious fragrance of the worship of this woman, Mary of Bethany! I can imagine Jesus gasping, “It is worth it, Father!” Like Mary of Bethany may we waste our lives on Him. He is all- deserving! He has the right to all of us … Let’s anoint him with the oil of our treasures, and pour out our lives like a drink offering upon the one that we love!

The next morning Jesus will ride into Jerusalem as a donkey -