



RISE

LET US GO

**ACTION
GUIDE**

DOING THE WRONG THING

Mark 14:6: "But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me."

No one alive today does the right thing all the time. We struggle with things like insecurity, guilt, a desire to be liked or a lust for power. These internal struggles sometimes lead to making selfish choices. In Mark 14:1-9, we witness religious leaders and disciples of Jesus making these kinds of selfish decisions. None of them are doing the right thing except for an unnamed woman who sought out Jesus in the home of Simon the leper.

This woman breaks an alabaster flask of ointment and pours it over the head of Jesus. When the disciples get indignant at what they deem a waste, Jesus defends this woman by calling her action beautiful. As religious leaders seek to rid themselves of Jesus while protecting themselves from the crowds and the disciples of Jesus can only see the waste of the precious ointment, Jesus proclaims this woman has done the right thing in honoring him. Her act comes at great personal cost. The ointment was very expensive, and she will not recover the money.

When we Rise and do the right thing, it might cost us something. The price may be our pride or reputation, a promotion or a friendship, our time or like this woman our treasure.

Questions to Ponder

1. When was a time you knew the right thing to do, but you chose not to do it?
2. How did you know what the right thing was?
3. What were some reasons you chose not to do the right thing?
4. What might have been different if you had done the right thing?

DOING THE RIGHT THING

What is the Right Thing?

The right thing is that which reflects the will and character of God. The right thing is in line with what God's word tells us and matches who God is. One simple statement that helps us see what is the right thing comes from Jesus: "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them" (Matthew 7:12). When we look at a situation, one way of knowing the right thing is to ask: "What would I want done to me in this situation?"

In another place, Paul writes: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Phil 4:8). In your situation, what would the "true" thing or the "honorable thing" or the "lovely thing" be? That is the right thing.

Paul also wrote: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children" (Ephesians 5:1). How has God treated you? How has God loved you and forgiven you and sacrificed for you? How has God sought your good or showed you mercy? That is the right thing.

Here are some actions you might need to take to do the right thing

Forgive someone who has wronged you; confront someone who needs correction; come clean in a situation where you haven't been honest; speak your mind about an important topic; make a sacrifice to help someone; make better use of your time; follow the orders of a boss or a teacher; listen and respond to the needs of a loved one.

What will it take for you to do the right thing?

1. What is one right thing you need to do right now?
2. How do you know it is the right thing?
3. What do you think will happen if you do the right thing?
4. Will you trust God with this?

Part 3

DOING THE RIGHT THING NOW

Prayer

Pray and ask God to help you Rise and do the right thing. Make a commitment to not let this week go by without doing the right thing.

"Almighty God, thank you that you always do the right thing; grant me the clarity to know what I need to do and the courage to do it; still my fears and strengthen my faith that I might honor you in my actions this week and for the rest of my life; I ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."

Part 4

SHARING THE RIGHT THING

Once you have done the right thing, take time to share this with someone in your life. The point is not to brag or be prideful, but to encourage each other. Doing the right thing can be hard. Let's take time to build each other up so we can all do the right thing.