

November 16, 2023

Jesus had x-ray vision into the hearts of those he encountered. He knew their true feelings, even when others were entirely in the dark. I think of his encounter with the woman with the alabaster jar.

As reported by Matthew, Mark and Luke, a woman came to Jesus and poured expensive perfume on his head. She was scolded by the disciples for being wasteful and a poor steward of assets, but Jesus defended her. He did this because he knew the sincerity of her action and the care behind what she did.

What does this have to do with Stewardship? The value of the perfume was irrelevant to Jesus. The amount of the perfume was irrelevant to Jesus. What mattered to him was the woman's loving intention to prepare him for what was coming in Jerusalem. In her sacred act of giving that came straight from her heart, she joined Jesus's story.

In this same way, we invite all who have not yet pledged to please do so now. It's not because we want your money. It's because we want your heart. Have you heard the phrase "skin in the game"? We want your "heart in the game." We want you to pledge so that you will be part the 2024 St. Bart's story. With your financial pledge, no matter how large or small, you will be committing yourself to the heart of this church family.

Again, the size of your pledge is not important. What is important is that it is from you. You are important. You have a part to play. I don't want anyone left out of our story as we move "Forward in Faith" in 2024.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chirst".