



## **Waste, ....or worship?**

This drama is based on the anointing of Jesus feet by Mary and picks up the format of the 'This is your life' TV series to give some present day application. (*Director: if you are not familiar with 'This is Your Life, try to get a copy to familiarize yourself*). It will require two good lead roles and very good speech delivery by the Commentator for the punch line interjections.

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### **Narrator**

John 12 & Mathew 26

Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor."

Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

### **Commentator**

Mary.....a life of waste? ....or worship?

*Play title tune from Eamon Andrews programme 'This is your life'. Enter Eamon Andrews' with large folder*

**Eamon** (to the title tune of 'This is Your Life')

Welcome to another episode of This is Your life .....and our special guest tonight is.....John Christian .....he thinks he is just coming down to church this evening to practice a reading for next Sunday. (*create a little suspense as expecting a person for a surprise party*)

*Enter John from stage opposite*

**Eamon**

Welcome John! You thought you were just coming to church today, but we have laid on a little line-up to bring back some highlights from your past....John, this is your life

John, you had a special encounter at about the age of 16?

**John**

Yes, I met with Jesus, which was to give such meaningful direction to my life ever since. How it came about is a story for another time.

**Eamon**

At the time you were a specially gifted all round sportsman – you could turn your hand to so many ball games.

**John**

Yes, I loved sport, anything with a ball.

**Eamon**

But your first love was rugby and by age nineteen you were an outstanding fly half and spotted as having a very promising future.... Declan Kidney ....*who enters on cue*

**Declan** (*from off stage and entering as he says his first line*)

Yes, you were so talented

Hello John (*they shake hands and greet each other – john, full of surprise*).....how many times did I try to sign you for Munster. You could have had a great career. But you wouldn't.....and we all thought 'such a waste of talent!'

**Commentator** (*while everyone on stage freezes – and same for every repeat later*

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Waste!?!.....or worship?

**John**

Well, I did love it so much, but it was in danger of taking over my life, especially at weekends, when I wanted some time to be at church – and also I had been asked to lead the music group at church ... so choices had to be made .....and there was really only one choice, one which I never regretted for one minute since.

**Eamon**

But you didn't turn your back on sport altogether

**John**

I did play club rugby but kept it at a manageable level and now I love a bit of golf.

**Eamon**

You were also brilliant academically, coming out of university with a first class masters. Then you took up employment with a large city consulting firm where your talent was quickly noted and you were given some important assignments. You had several quick promotions

**Eddie** *(from off stage and entering as he says his first line)*

And then a few times you got the opportunity to hit the big time

Great to see you again John. *(they greet one another)* .....Yes you were one of the best. But we were all intrigued ....you had several opportunities you passed up on and you could easily have made managing partner or taken a Chief Exec job anywhere. We did pay you well but money didn't seem to motivate you, although you did take up one very significant role for us. We often thought at Board level, 'what a waste of such opportunity

**Commentator**

Waste?.....or worship?

**John**

Yes Eddie, they were good times working with you. I think you know the reasons behind my decisions – we often talked about them. I could have enhanced my status and my income and that would have looked great to my friends...and at church too! The money would have been great but I had plenty to live a reasonable life style – but some of those job offers would have involved things like compromising standards, a lot of foreign travel and 24 hour on-call pressure – they would have all eaten away at my Christian life and kept me from some of the areas of work God had for me. But that Director of project management role that I took was manageable and I was able to influence the role and many people with good Christian ethics.

**Eamon**

John, do you remember that day when you summarily dismissed a lady who came to sell you a larger mortgage? *enter Sarah*

**Sarah** *(from off stage and entering as she says her first line)*

John, we only met once in life, but I'll never forget that meeting. *(they greet)*

I am daring to turn up again today to remind you of the day I tried to sell you a bigger mortgage so you could get a much bigger house – would have been so good for the image – and you could well have afforded it. Most people would have jumped at the opportunity. But you were politely direct with me telling me what to do with my mortgage!! At the time, I thought, 'what a waste of luxury'

**Commentator**

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**John**

Yes, I think I told you that I didn't have to keep up with Jones or get a status symbol – the house I had was great and perfectly adequate – and why would I put myself under more financial pressure.... that would just take energy away from my Christian faith. You and I talked about that a bit.

**Sarah**

Yes, it had a profound effect on me – that is why I remember it so vividly.

**Eamon**

You thought your wife was running an errand this morning, (*enter Joan*) but we secretly brought her here too. (*they meet, brief kiss and remain holding hands*)

(*Eamon continues*) Between you, you made a significant choice a few years ago – remember that large bonus you got back then and we learned that you gave it all to Christian work associated with the Pacific tsunami disaster – your friends thought 'what a waste?'

**Commentator**

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**Joan**

Yes, at the time I thought we could have had a state of the art new kitchen, but as we talked about it, your idea was right and I was very happy to be part of it – we didn't really need a new kitchen.

**Eddie**

And you surprised us all when you quit the job at 52 and took up another one with a Christian organization at a fraction of the salary – again we thought 'what a waste'

**Commentator**

Waste!?!.....or worship?

**John**

That was an easy decision – there was this large mission agency desperately in need of re-structuring, the sort of thing I did frequently when I worked with you – and I felt God was calling me especially to this – and it has been so fulfilling. Less money?.....I do fine.

**Eamon** *now goes to John and hands him over the large folder with the words*

John, this is your life!

*And turns to the congregation*

And what is yours?

**Commentator** *(after a short pause)*

Waste!?!.....or worship?

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