

Sunday Morning Message  
Jersey Shore Baptist Church  
Pastor Phil Erickson  
November 2, 2025

“Unknown Heroes in the Bible”

Text – **Mark 14:1 - 21**; Luke 22:1 – 13; Matthew 26:6 - 19  
Congregational Reading – Mark 14:12 – 17

## Introduction

In Christianity there is only one hero – God who is manifested in three persons, the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*"17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Timothy 1:17)*

*"11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever." (Revelation 5:11-14)*

However, while we understand that all the glory belongs to the Lord, there are many people in the Bible who are highlighted and we know a lot about them.

In the Old Testament, we have many people who are mentioned prominently. The New Testament Book of Hebrews gives a summary of many of these Old Testament figures.

[See Hebrews 11 and skim through some of the names]

The New Testament also includes the names of the Apostles and many others, like Luke, Apollos, Aquila and Priscilla, Timothy, Titus, and many others; all heroes that we are well-familiar with.

However, there are also many unsung heroes that are unnamed in the Scriptures. We something about what they did, but we don't know who they are; we don't know their names.

In our text today, we read about the Lord Jesus in the days before the crucifixion. Portions of this story are found in all four of the gospel accounts. As we read through this passage from this morning from the perspective of the Gospel of Mark, I want to draw your attention to two individuals that are mentioned in the Scripture that we know almost nothing about.

Read Mark 14: 1 – 11

Here, we read about a woman who poured a very expensive ointment on the head of Jesus. This is a very similar story to that which we read about in John 12, which also takes place in Bethany and involves the anointing of Jesus with this expensive ointment. The temptation is to try to make these two separate events into one because of their similarities, but there are also a few key differences. In John's gospel, the woman is named; it is Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus and the dinner that Jesus was invited to took place at their home. That dinner referenced in John's account was six days before the Feast of the Passover. In that account Mary pours the ointment on Jesus's feet.

In this account from Mark's Gospel, the day of the dinner is two days before the Passover feast and the dinner takes place in the home of Simon the leper. Here, an unnamed woman pours a very expensive ointment that was worth almost a year's salary for a common worker on Jesus's head, not his feet.

I believe that these two stories (the one from John's Gospel and the one from Mark's) are referencing two different women and two different occasions where the Lord Jesus had an expensive ointment poured on Him. By the way - there is another similar event that happened in Luke's Gospel (Luke 7:36 – 39) at a Pharisees house where an expensive ointment was poured upon Jesus's feet. Apparently, this pouring of ointment was not all that uncommon.

The woman from our text in Mark's Gospel is not named, yet notice what Jesus says about her:  
*"9 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her."* (Mark 14:9)

The point that I want to make in this message is that we do not even know this woman's name, but God is well acquainted with her and though we have no clue who she is, God does. She is an unsung hero. The phrase "unsung hero" refers to a person who is admired for their brave actions or significant contributions but does not receive the recognition they deserve. These individuals often work behind the scenes, making a positive impact without seeking fame or glory.

#### Read Mark 14:12 – 17

Here we have another unsung hero – the man who donated a portion of his home so that Jesus and the disciples could use it for their last supper together on the night before day that Jesus was crucified. This may also be the same "upper room" that was used by the disciples weeks later as they awaited the arrival of the Holy Ghost before Pentecost.

I thought about this man who let Jesus use his house. We may run into him in Heaven someday, not knowing who he was and then find out that he was the guy who gave Jesus the room. The same is true for the woman who poured the ointment on the head of Jesus.

I thought about the many hundreds of people who are mentioned in the Scripture, but are not identified by name:

The Man Who Supplied the Colt for Jesus to Ride Upon

The Men Who Held the Ropes for Paul when he was escaping from Jerusalem  
The Widow Who Put Her Two Mites into the Treasury  
The Boy Who Gave His Lunch for Jesus to Feed the Multitudes  
The Roman Centurion at the Cross (Mark 15:39)  
The Good Samaritan  
The Other Woman Who Anointed the Feet of Jesus (Luke 7:36 – 50)  
The Woman with the Issue of Blood (Mark 5:25-34)  
The Four Friends of the Paralytic Man (Mark 2:1 – 12)  
The Samaritan Woman at the Well (John 4)  
The Gerasene Demoniac (Mark 5:1-20)  
The Man Born Blind (John 9:1-41)  
The Capernaum Centurion (Luke 7:1-10)  
The Grateful Samaritan Leper (Luke 17:11-19)  
The Penitent Thief on the Cross (Luke 23:39 – 43)  
The Devout Men Who Buried Stephen (Acts 8:1-2)  
Paul's Nephew (Acts 23:12-22)  
The Praying Believers in Mary's House (Acts 12:5-17)  
The Philippian Jailer (Acts 16:25-34)  
The Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)  
Saul's Servant Who Travelled with Him to Look for the Asses (1 Samuel 9:1-10)  
The 7,000 Who Did Not Bow to Baal  
The Servant for Naaman's Wife and Naaman's Servants Who Convinced Him to Listen  
The Widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8 – 24)  
The Widow Whose Oil was Multiplied (2 Kings 4:1-7)  
The Wise Woman of Abel-Beth-Maacah (2 Samuel 20:14-22)  
The Three Valiant Warriors Who Brought the Water from Bethlehem's Well (2 Samuel 23:13-17)

My point is that there were hundreds of good men and women in the Bible who did some wonderful things for the Lord who are not remembered by name – at least their names are not know to us.

Similarly, there are many people throughout history that are know because of what they had done to advance the Gospel and give us the faith and the Scriptures that we have today. We know about Luther, Calvin, Zwingly, Huss, Tindale, and Wickliffe. We are familiar with Jonathon Edwards, George Whitfield, Obadiah Holmes, and Shubal Stearns. In more recent history, we are acquainted with D. L. Moody, Billy Sunday, Billy Graham, and even some of the great Baptist leaders like Spurgeon, J. Frank Norris, Lee Roberson, Jack Hyles. These names and many more we know, but there are millions of others that have played important roles throughout the centuries; men and women who have sacrificed greatly to bring us the Gospel – they are all unsung heroes.

In the church today, there are people who are more apparent than others; people whose roles cause them to be noticed more that others. Note, however though there are some that are

more apparent, there are none that are more important. Every person within the local body of Christ plays an important role.

### Turn to Romans 12:1 – 13

Turn to 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 31 – After listing the various gifts in vs. 4 – 11, this passage speaks of the importance that each member has within the overall body.

In today's church there are also many gifts given by God for the benefit of the entire church. Some of these giftings are more noticeable than others – people who preach or teach; people who sing.

However, many gifts that people are using for the Lord are less noticeable but equally important. These are the people who administrate the business of the church, who maintain the buildings and grounds, who keep us safe from harm; who drive the busses and vans; who provide the audio and visual aids that make our worship better, and develop and maintain technologies such as our websites, etc.

These people are critically important parts of the local church, yet you may not be aware of who they are.

Then there are the people who give generously to help us do what we do. There are many people outside of the church who give generously to help us advance the cause of Christ here in Galloway.

Illustrate – There is a lady in AZ that gives regularly; a lady in GA; another lady in FL; a man PA; a couple in AK; a couple in TX – all these folks do not receive the benefit directly from this church but they support the ministry; you don't know their names, but God does.

### **Conclusion**

Let's revisit the first statement I made in this message – there is only one hero whose praises should be sung by the church and that is the name of the Lord Jesus Christ:

*"9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11)*

### Practical Points

- Make sure your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Speaking of the New Jerusalem, which is the name of our Heavenly home, God said:

*"27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." (Revelation 21:27)*

If you are saved, your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

When the disciples were bragging about the amazing things that God had allowed them to do, Jesus said:

*"20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:20)*

- Know that everything that you do for the Lord will be recognized and remembered and rewarded for all eternity by Jesus.
- Know also that most people will never know all that you do for the Lord.
- Don't seek the recognition of men; seek only the recognition of the Lord.

We do not know who the woman was that poured the ointment on the head of Jesus, but He does.

We do not know the identity of the man who furnished the upper room for Jesus and his disciples, but God does.

Stop looking for recognition by people who really do not matter. Just know that God sees it all and all that you do will be remembered and rewarded by Him.