

## JOY OFFERING... ACCELERATED! Pt 1 of 3

Pastor Harlyn

March 25,2018

“Six days before the Passover began, Jesus went back to Bethany, the town where he raised Lazarus from the dead. They had prepared a supper for Jesus. Martha served, and Lazarus and Mary were among those at the table. Mary picked up an alabaster jar filled with nearly a liter of extremely rare and costly perfume—the purest extract of nard, and she anointed Jesus’ feet. Then she wiped them dry with her long hair. And the fragrance of the costly oil filled the house. But Judas Iscariot, the betrayer, spoke up and said, “What a waste! We could have sold this perfume for a fortune and given the money to the poor!” (In fact, Judas had no heart for the poor. He only said this because he was a thief and in charge of the money case. He would steal money whenever he wanted from the funds given to support Jesus’ ministry.) Jesus said to Judas, “Leave her alone! She has saved it for the time of my burial. You’ll always have the poor with you; but you won’t always have me.” John 12:1-7

He replied to them, “Now is the time for the Son of Man to be glorified. Let me make this clear: A single grain of wheat will never be more than a single grain of wheat unless it drops into the ground and dies. Because then it sprouts and produces a great harvest of wheat—all because one grain died. John 12:23-24

“The Lord spoke to Moses, “Set apart every **firstborn** male for me. Every firstborn male offspring among the Israelites **is Mine**.” Exodus 13:1-2

“Sacrifice every **firstborn** male offspring to the Lord. The **firstborn** male offspring of each of your animals belongs to the Lord... You must also buy every **firstborn** son back from the Lord.” Exodus 13:12-13

“The person who loves his life and pampers himself will miss true life! But the one who detaches his life from this world and abandons himself to me, will find true life and enjoy it forever! If you want to be my disciple, follow me and you will go where I am going. And if you truly follow me as my disciple, the Father will shower his favor upon your life. John 12:25-26

“Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the **firstfruits** of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.” Prov 3:9-10

“Loving money is the first step toward all kinds of trouble. Some people run after it so much that they have given up their faith. Craving more money pushes them away from the faith into error, compounding misery in their lives.” 1 Timothy 6:10

### My Next Step...

- Begin praying about what to give in the Joy Offering
- Begin earning additional (or reallocating existing) money to give in the Joy Offering
- Make it a family affair... pray with your children about how they can be a part.