

The Greatest Chapter-by-Chapter Novel – Why Do I Translate the Bible? (5)

The Bible has been translated into many languages. There is even a list that shows such and such languages the Bible has been translated into. Therefore, when I mention that I am translating the Bible, people's first reaction is usually "Why do you have to waste your time while, I am sure, there is already a translation in your language?"

But how many people know that translating the Bible can be fun! When I read the Bible, it reminds me of the Chinese so-called 'chapter-by-chapter' novels. Also, translating is not copying. It is a creative process. Every person translates differently from another person.

But, for me, the most important is although the Taiwanese language (or dialect) exists, the system to represent it hardly exists. In other words, in today's Taiwan, you only see written Mandarin because it is considered the national language or the standard dialect; you do not see 'written' Taiwanese, which is the main reason that drives me to do the Bible translation. With the technology of computer and Internet, a written system for any language or dialect has become a necessity if only for it to have a fair share in today's world-culture movement that has become imminent and obvious. When I do the translation, I am building up a language system at the same time.

Therefore, the benefit is doubled, or even tripled – it's fun, creative, and productive -- all at the same time.

Let me share with you today's fun:

3 While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment to his head. **4** But some were there who said to the one another in anger, "Why was the ointment wasted in this way? **5** For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they scolded her. **6** But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. **7** For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. **8** She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. **9** Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her." (Mark 14)

3 他在貝讚尼麻風病人賽門的家裏，坐在桌旁，有位女人提了一雪花石瓶的松香，那是一種昂貴的油膏。她打開瓶子，把油膏往耶穌頭上就灌下來，真的給了他一個醍醐灌頂。**4** 有些人就生氣了，他們說，“爲什麼這樣子浪費這油膏？**5** 這些油膏本來可以賣三百塊錢，拿來施捨給窮人不是很好嗎？”於是就責備她。**6** 耶穌卻說，“不要爲難她；爲什麼麻煩她呢？她爲我做了一件很好的差事。**7** 你們知道嗎？你們要窮人，那可是隨時都有，要善待他們隨你們愛做就做；至於我呢，你們不能永遠有我跟你們一起。**8** 她已經盡力而爲；爲了埋葬我的尸首，她已經先把它灌下油膏了。**9** 老實說，你們看著吧，福音在全世界宣傳開來，她剛才所做的事情，就要成爲有口皆碑流傳千古。” (馬可福音14章)

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