

Mark 14:1-11

Extravagant Love

Today to begin our message I want to do something that I rarely do! – Movie Clip.

A)I have to say: **I don't know anything about this movie – PG-13 – Good bad – nothing.**

B)So this is not an endorsement for the movie The Big Fish.

C)But as I was reading this illustration – I thought it would be **more impactful** to show you rather than to tell you.

D)Great illustration of what we are going to be talking about today!

1) Roll it!

See when you really love someone you will go to great extent to show it

A)Love the way some of the young guys around here have – **stepped it up – Proposals.**

B)Trevor Okeefe – Dress the Limo – building from there.

1)Joe Dinner on the beach

C)Aaron Carriage ride thing!

D)**Mine was Lame** – No ring – no dinner – middle of the day – nothing special { Want to get married.

I have been making up for that ever since!

A)Gifts, trips, special dinners – Romantic Getaways

B)Not **because Denise demands it** – She doesn't

1)She has **never complained** once about the way I proposed – Never brings it up

C)I bring it up –**Lesson – don't do as I did**

1)Embarrassed by it

Been making up for it ever since – not because Denise Demands it – but she deserves it!

A)Not trying to **EARN** her love – but it is because I so **APPRECIATE** her love.

B)If your **spouse deserves that type of Affection**

1)If your **kids deserve** creative special displays of love

C)How much more **our Lord** who bled and died to give us life!

1)Forgive us – Give us Purpose and Hope!

D)Today we see a vivid Display of Extravagant love

Mark 14 is our text

We are once again in the final week of the life of Jesus – Calling this the Greatest Week in History

A)**Greatest act of love, greatest sacrifice, the greatest Victory – Sin/death/ Satan Conquered!**

B)Smack dab in the middle of that week something happens that was so significant – **that it is mentioned in three of the four gospels and Jesus himself forever attaches it to the story of the gospel.**

Rd v.1-11

After two days it was the Passover and *the Feast of Unleavened Bread*. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put *Him* to death. ² But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people.” Interesting that – The whole Passover feast was about Him – Pointed to Him – the one sacrifice that would save many.

³ And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured *it* on His head. ⁴ But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, “Why was this fragrant oil wasted? ⁵ For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they criticized her sharply.

⁶ But Jesus said, “Let her alone. {Love that-}Why do you trouble

her? She has done a good work for Me.

For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. ⁸ She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. ⁹ Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. ¹¹ And when they heard *it*, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.

So we find Jesus is in Bethany – Interesting cast of Characters -- A common resting spot of His - *Good friends- Home of Simon the Leper.*

A.) *Formerly a leper* - { Ostracized from society while infected.

B.) **SIMON obviously has been healed.**

1) Simon is a good picture of New Believer - like a new believer - just wants to be close to the Lord-

C) **Ephesians 3:17 – “Christ would dwell in hearts through faith.”** - home in heart

1) **Simon Just wants Jesus to be in his home!**

D) Some scholars believe that **Simon was the Father of Mary, Martha and Lazarus** – which is why as we shall see –

1) Martha was so comfortable to serve in his house. She seems to know her way around.

John’s gospel tell us that Lazarus was also there!

A.) **Like Simon - Lazarus life was touched by Jesus in a radical way!**

B.) **3 days dead and Jesus brought him back to life - called him right out of the grave!**

C.) John’s account tells us that people were actually coming to the house not just to see Jesus but to see Lazarus.
1) **CHECK HIM OUT – HE LOOKS GREAT!**

When I look out at the body of Christ gathered here on a Sunday morning

A) There are some of you here – like Simon – new believers – **been delivered from something that was plaguing your life.** – Awesome

B) You have such a desire to be with Jesus – your love for **Jesus is contagious**

1) Love that you are here. – Good for us – been around a while

C) But I look out and I also see some Lazarus’ – **You have a story that needs to be shared** – something radical Jesus did in your life!

1) **SHARE IT!**

In a tenement district in New York City, a boy in ragged clothes was seen with a small piece of broken mirror in his hand. Holding it high in the air he moved it slowly back and forth, watching the narrow slit of a window above him as he did so. A Man Stopped him supposing up to Mischief

The boy looked up into the stern face of his accuser and said, "See that window up there? Well, I have a little brother who has a room on that floor. He's a cripple. The only sunlight he ever sees is what I shine up to him with my mirror!"

D) Guys there are people around us everyday who have been crippled by sin hurt / taken advantage of / they are in darkness - some don’t even know it

1) We can be a light shining in their dark world - what we say / what we do

E) **Point people to Jesus!**

Lazarus had a story - radical testimony - dead for 3 days brought back to life!

A) But notice where Lazarus is - not out on the circuit doing seminar on *post death experiences - charging big bucks*

B) No! He is where Jesus is! In place where He can point people to Jesus!

- 1) Paul - Acts 17:28 - *In Him we live and move and have our being*

John's gospel also mentions that Martha was there – simply says of her Martha served!

A) Which is significant – because when Jesus was in Bethany on another occasion – this time it was Martha's home

B) Jesus shows up it is like thanksgiving – ENTOURAGE – at least 12 people with him usually more.

C) Thanksgiving like for YOU – but we will have upwards 20 people at the house

My wife – Martha mode – I know what this looks like

A) But it is interesting there is Luke 10 it gives this description of Martha

B) She was distracted with much serving!
1) Serving Jesus

C) Great picture of what can happen to any of us – who are involved in service to the Lord and in the Church.

1) Distracted – Shown in this way: Martha had no Joy –

2) She had a critical spirit toward Mary her sister – why am I doing this alone?

D) She thought that Jesus really didn't care about her – Lord don't you care

E.) *“Martha, Martha - you are worried and troubled about many things”* - (that's Martha's tendency - details - stress)

1.) *But one thing is needed - and Mary has chosen good part!*

F.) Putting mission over the Master results in burn out!

Devotion becomes Duty

Martha seems to have things in the right perspective – She is seen here in a positive light – Serving.

Then there is Mary: Common place at the feet of Jesus!

A) Here we see her showing a display of Extravagant love!

B) Focus the rest of time today looking at these 4 things

#1 The Demonstration of extravagant love.

#2 The Indignation towards extravagant love.

#3 The Defense of extravagant love.

#4 The Affects of extravagant love.

#1 The Demonstration of extravagant love. Mary's worship: - Note 4 points

A) Extravagant love is costly!

B) Our text tells us that this alabaster flask of oil of spikenard was costly

C) 300 Denarii was a laborer's whole year's wages!

D) A year's wage: 30k, 40k 50k?

Reserved for her wedding day.

A) Reserved for a loved one who died –

B) Lazarus isn't protesting – Why didn't you use that when I died?

C) No he is like – He brought me back to life – you can pour that on Him if you want to.

D) Swindoll - *Living above level of Mediocrity* - focuses on costly aspect!

1.) *Mary's aren't afraid to break a vase - to do something - costly - bless Lord and His body*

Remember when David wanted to build an Altar on Mt Zion for the Lord.

A)The Altar would eventually become the place where the temple was built.

B) Araunah who owned the property said to David- You can have this spot – Free of Charge!

1)Most of us probably would have said – Awesome

C)David responded – “**God forbid, I will not give to the Lord that which has cost me nothing!**” 2 Samuel 24:24

D)2 Samuel 24 tells us that **DAVID paid the FULL PRICE for the land.**

E)This is **TO the FATHER & FOR the FATHER**

1)I AM PAYING FULL PRICE FOR THIS

EXTRAVAGANT LOVE IS COSTLY – because it deserves the very best!

A)Extravagant love is personal and intimate!

Worship - Prokuneo - means turn and kiss - act of intimacy

B)When Mary poured this bottle of spikenard over Jesus’ head – she was showing an intimate display love and affection

C)Oil ran down from his feet to the floor and his feet

1)**She took her hair and began to wash his feet with her hair.**

A Jewish woman’s hair was never let down in Public

A)A Jewish woman’s hair was considered her glory.

B)Mary is so lost in the moment – She is so captured by her love Jesus –

1)**She completely goes against PROTOCOL!**

C)Think about those feet – Streets were made of dirt

1)No sewers – Camels, Horses, Cows, Sheep and Donkeys roam the streets – Dung

D)Why when a good host – **first thing always do entered his house – servant wash your feet.**

E)Mary takes down her glory – her hair - washes – feet – Dries with her hair {Amazing Love!

Extravagant love – seen in worship is Personal and intimate.

A)Set aside **our glory – our image** – our inhibitions to declare to Jesus – You are awesome!

B)**Die to Self** – to say - I love you so much – don’t care what others think right now –

1)I am going to raise voice – raise my hands – bow

C)Set aside my glory – to Humbly – personally – give you glory!

So #1 The Demonstration of extravagant love. Mary’s worship:

#2 The Indignation towards extravagant love.

A)Our text tells us that there were some who were **indignant = really mad**

B)John’s gospel tells us it was Judas who started the whole thing!

C)Critical spirit is contagious – all it takes is one person saying: **I don’t understand that** – or can you believe this – **I am sure – what waste**

1)Pretty soon there is a mob joining in.

D) Proverbs 22:10 “**Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; Yes, strife and reproach will cease.**”

Here is the thing you need to realize – You seek to do anything extravagant for Jesus and there will be critics.

A)Some of you have family members who can’t believe that you go to church every Sunday- Are you kidding me – Football Season – DVR?

B)**You come on Wednesday night too** – ready to call the Psyche ward. – Nuts

C) People – You gave what to who and why?

1) Your taking your vacation to go on a missions trip are you Crazy!

#3 The Defense of extravagant love.

A) Jesus says “let her alone – {Comes to Mary’s defense

B) Jesus says – **She has done a good thing for me** – word he uses here for good is not speaking of good – morally – good in the sense of Beautiful.

1) **Wonderful – special !**

C) Jesus – Comes to Mary’s defense – says to Judas

Hey Jude – you should be afraid, - took a glad song and made it bitter – Let her be ... Jesus speaking words of wisdom let her be.

D) **Jesus said: She has done what she could!**

1) That is what extravagant love does – It does what it can!

Jesus isn’t expecting us to do crazy things – go in debt or do what you can’t do!

A) Birthday coming up – My wife went out and bought me – **a 50K car – I would not be happy.**

B) My kids – took credit cards – stupid take it back

C) But do what you can!

What can you do to show Jesus extravagant love?

A) Sing

B) Give

C) Serve

D) Set aside a special day for just you and him.

Jesus says something so interesting here that we really need to hear.

A) He says: The poor you have with you always! Me you will not always have.

B) Lesson for us – There will always be needs.

C) **I never wake up – what do today?** – Always needs – always people to go visit

1) There are needs all around us.

D) The needs will always be there – but worship needs to be a priority.

We have to make a choice – to spend time with Jesus!

A) John 4 – “**True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**”

B) The Father is seeking those who will set aside time to seek his face – sit at his feet.

C) This seems to be the **Pattern of Mary** – Every time we find her in Scripture she is sitting at the feet of Jesus.

Luke 10: Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.

A) John 11 – Brother died – Mary comes to Jesus falls at his feet

B) Here in Mark 14/John 12

#4 The Affects of extravagant love.

A) **1st Spiritual insight:** Mary was clued in to what the other Disciples were not.

B) Even though Jesus has been telling his disciples who followed him every day that he was going to the cross.

C) Mary seems to be the only one who actually – heard Him – She chooses to anoint Him for his burial.

Acts 13 Ministered to the Lord- Difference between Ministering to the Lord and for the Lord

The Holy Spirit said separate unto me Paul and Barnabas

2nd Blessing from the Lord:

- A) Jesus said – what she has done is going to be remembered.
- B) Whenever the gospel is preached this story attached
- B) Here **we are 2013 years later** – talking about what this woman did that day
- C) Lesson for us – encouragement for us – that what we give to the Lord
- D) What we do for Jesus – is also going to be remembered
 - 1) He takes note of it

3rd The Fragrance of Jesus is on your life.

- A) When Mary anointed Jesus, the Fragrance that was on Jesus suddenly came on Mary.
- B) The house was filled with the fragrance and so was Mary.
- C) Every where that Mary went Follow –
Others observed the fragrance – but when they left the house – they didn't have the fragrance.
 - A) Happens every week here – People come – really sensed God's presence today at Calvary Vista
 - B) Some leave with the Fragrance – others – go home NO FRAGRANCE –
 - 1) **OR WRONG FRAGRANCE – WHY** {grumpy
 - C) **THEY ONLY – observed – didn't participate**
 - D) It is only those who like Mary – Participate in Extravagant love
 - 1) They leave with the Fragrance

We all have a fragrance:

- A) Bitterness – Jealousy
- B) The **Fragrance of competition** –

C) The Fragrance of Busyness

D) The **Fragrance of Strife**

What is the Fragrance that marks your life?

- A) Judas – **Fragrance like many today** – Consumer what is in it for me!
- B) What have you done for me lately – when Jesus was living up to his expectations he bailed on Jesus
 - 1) Betrayed Jesus
- C) **But those who LOVE JESUS – not afraid to express it –**

Those who love Jesus – Attitude of the heart is LORD YOU DESERVE MY VERY BEST !

- A) I am going to give you what I can!
- B) Result – they have **Spiritual insight** – they See the Bigger picture
- C) They end up being **Blessed by the Lord**
- D) Best of all – they **End up smelling like the Lord**

Close today.....

I know in my life – it can be nasty – but when I take the time morning by morning to be with Jesus -

- A) We use Deodorant to mask the smell – of our odor right?
- B) How often do you put it on – Once a quarter? –
 - 1) Not even once a week – Daily.
- C) **Daily been with Jesus**

D) Acts 4 They could tell **the Disciples** had been with Jesus!
Daily time is key – then setting aside special times – draw near –

A) Choice – worship – Press in

B) He promises – **I am the rewarder** of those who diligently seek me