

## John 12:1-11

### Jesus Loves Extravagant Worship

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. 2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. 4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. 7 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." 9 Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. 10 But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, 11 because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

#### What comes to your mind when you hear the word -Extravagant?

A)The word "extravagant" has been defined as "spending too much:

B)or spending excessively or wastefully; spending beyond what is reasonable:

C)Being flamboyant showy."

1) It has the idea of "going overboard, of doing too much."

**So When I hear of someone spending 2 million dollars on a wedding, I think that is extravagant, over the top, simply too much!**

A)Is that really necessary?

B) I think spending \$250,000 on an automobile is extravagant.

C)A football team spending 50 million a year for a QB – extravagant

1)What we pay sports players in general extravagant

**There are a lot of things that are considered extravagant – negative connotation –**

A)But what about Worship of Jesus? Is there every a place for extravagantly expresses worship to Jesus?

**B)There are some in the church today that would look down upon such a display of worship –**

1)even as some do in our story

C)But when it is done with the right heart and right motive – **Jesus is actually blessed by it!**

**Today we are continuing our series – Who do Jesus love – heading into Easter –**

A)Answer today – Extravagant worshippers

B)In our text today – we see an extravagant display of worship and the various reactions to it.

1) And the effects of it

C)Before we jump into it. Let me set the scene

**Scene: Six days before the Passover feast –**

A)So six days before Jesus was crucified – Jesus goes to Bethany to spend some time with some friends

B)Who was there ?

1)Matthew's gospel tells us it was at the home of Simon the Leper -

C)Now we know that Lepers didn't live in homes – banished – Simon has obviously been healed by Jesus

1)Simon the Ex -Leper – Simon is hosting

**D)Lazarus is there – Mary and Martha – and the disciples are there.**

**Imagine the conversation:**

A)Simon says – you know when I had leprosy – it was so painful at first –

B)But then the day came – lost all feeling – no pain

C)But then my fingers started falling off – I wasting away – but then Jesus healed me – So amazing

D)It is hard to describe what it was like to suddenly have fingers again and feeling again

1)to reach up and feel that I had eyebrows.

E)To be restored to my family and to be able to be around all of you my friends

1)Imagine that conversation

### But don't forget Lazarus is sitting there

A)Lazarus says, dude, that's a good story, but I was dead.

B)I saw Abraham, and I saw David, the prophet Isaiah - and then I get called back here.

1)It must've been wonderful conversation.-

C)Great to tell our stories what Jesus has done for us. - Ask what is your story

D)So Simon is there he is hosting – and Lazarus is witnessing

### You ask why do I say that?

A)In the text Lazarus is not saying a word.

B)This is a very interesting fact- **You will never find in any of the four gospels record Lazarus uttering a single word.**

C)But he was witnessing. -how was he witnessing? Look at verse 9.

"A great many of the Jews knew that He was there, and they came not only for Jesus' sake but that they might also see Lazarus whom He had raised from the dead." Jesus was doing all the talking less. Lazarus was just sitting there.

### Lazarus was exhibit A.

A)He didn't have to say a word. He was witnessing by his life.

B)Listen, witnessing isn't just something you do. It's something you are.

C)That is where it starts – You greatest witness is a life lived for Jesus

1)A life of no compromise – a life of love and grace to others

**D)It is your life that will validate the words that you speak about Jesus**

### So Simon is there he is Hosting – Lazarus is witnessing –

A)**Martha is serving** - Don't hold this against her –

B)Some of you Bible students recall Luke 10 – Jesus is in Bethany at their house

C)Martha was distracted with much serving – she is agitated that Mary wasn't helping –

1)Mary is sitting at the feet .... Martha interrupts the Bible study -Tell Mary to get up and help

D)Jesus tells Martha – you are worried and stressed over many things –

### Mary has chosen the best – part – Martha sit down – relax ok

A)Jesus challenges her on her priorities – the importance of sitting at the feet of Jesus BEFORE SERVING –

B)Getting filled before giving out - Well now we read here in John 12 – Martha is serving –

1)but there is no negative connotation to this –

C)This is Martha's love language –her love language is perspiration –

D)So Simon is hosting – Lazarus is witnessing – Martha is serving

### Then we have Mary – she is at her normal place the feet of Jesus – **Mary is worshipping**

A)She takes a bottle of very expensive perfume and breaks it and pours it over Jesus and wipes his feet with her hair

B)It was an extravagant display of worship

C)In the remainder of our time today I want to Consider:

- The Expense of her extravagant worship
- The Expression of her extravagant worship
- The Enlargement of her extravagant worship

### The Expense of her extravagant worship

3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard-

A)Oil of spikenard came from north India.

B)It was the fruit of a fibrous plant.

1)from which was extruded a very earthy, spicy, scented oil.

C)And because of it coming from such a distance and being so rare, it was of great value

**D)v.5 tells us it could have been sold for 300 denari – which was considered a year’s wage –**

1)Today it would have been worth about \$10K

**Some Scholars believe that this costly oil of spikenard had been given to Mary by her father and was her dowry**

A)The Dowry was a gift that a dad would give to his daughter and it was an investment – **she brought into her marriage**

B)We can’t be sure if this was her dowry but it does create an interesting picture for us as believers – called the bride of Christ

C)It was definitely and extravagant act of worship on the part of Mary

1)Martha's love language was perspiring. Mary's love language was perfume, giving a gift.

**We do extravagant things for those we love right.**

A)A young man saves his money to buy an expensive ring – in order to propose to the girl of his dreams

B)A father works extra hours and saves his money to take his family on a wonderful vacation –

1)something they will remember forever.

C)We are willing to make sacrifices when we are in love

**D)That is why a guy will sit thru Pride and prejudice for the girl he loves –{ Just don’t tell my friends**

**E)It is never wrong to do something extravagant for Jesus – when our heart and motive is right**

1)Leads us to consider point number 2

**The Expression of her extravagant worship**

A)There are two things that mark Mary’s expression of her extravagant worship that tell us her heart was in the right place

B)One was her Humility and the other was her surrender – 1<sup>st</sup> her Humility

C)Mary was willing to do the work of a common slave for the Lord Jesus.

1)Washing feet – reserved for the lowest slave in the house

**Mary’s surrender is seen when When she takes down her hair to use it as a towel to dry the feet of Jesus –**

A)You see in that culture a woman would never let her hair down in public –only an immoral woman would do so in public

B)But this was a sign that she was unselfconscious in her adoration and love of the Lord Jesus.

C)She didn't care what others thought. She didn't care about their gasps, their stares or their ridicule!

**D)Not only has she surrendered her possessions, she had also surrendered her pride.**

1)Her primary focus was serving and honoring the Lord.

**Reminds me of David – bringing the ark back to Israel**

A)He takes off his royal robes – and is only wearing his linen under garment –

B)So he looks like a servant boy – dancing before the ark

C)His wife – chided him – for looking undignified in the presence of Israel

D)David declared I will be even more undignified in my love for God

1)He didn’t care what he looked like – worshipping

**Audience of one**

A)I am not doing this to be seen by others to be recognized by others, to get my name on a plaque – or a call from someone – thanks

B)I am doing this for the Lord

C)Also Extravagant worship happens when I am not concerned about what others are thinking of me.

1)Raise my hands – sing out loud – come and Kneel before there Lord –

### Are we as surrendered as Mary?

A) Does the life you live reveal you kneeling before Him as absolute Lord and God?

B) When Mary came to the feet of Jesus and gave her all; truly she had done all that she could do.

C) Just as Mary broke the jar of ointment so that every drop might be extracted,

1) May we be broken in our Humble expression of surrender to Jesus in extravagant worship.

### The Enlargement of her extravagant worship 4 affects

A) First affect is negative – Judas objects – what a waste

4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

### First recorded words of Judas

A) The other gospel authors do not tell us who it was. It just says the disciples complained.

B) But John tells us it was Judas.

C) What Judas said sounds so good.

D) It sounds so spiritual, and he wanted it to make it sound so spiritual.

1) We should be concerned about the poor.

E) But John is quick to tell us – that his motives weren't pure. –

1) He didn't care about the poor – he was stealing from the offering.

### But there are people with good motives who can also react negatively to extravagant displays of worship.

A) I will be honest – I have struggled with this myself at times. – I grew up in a blue collar home.

B) My parents have always been frugal – I haven't definitely picked up on that trait.

1) Always taken very seriously how we spend the Lord's money around here

C) Many times I have asked the question – Is that really necessary

### Sometimes it is not only necessary – it is the right thing to do when the motive is right and the heart is right.

A) When Not doing something to be seen by men –

B) Jesus said don't be like the Pharisees who pray in the streets to be seen by men

### C) God is never honored by that heart and motive – it is false spirituality

1) God abhors that type of motive

D) But when the motive is something is to honor and glory God

1) When the heart is humble and surrendered –

E) God is not only honored but he is blessed by extravagant displays of worship and giving

1) Example in our text – Jesus response

2<sup>nd</sup> Affect Jesus response: 7 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

A) Leave her alone, she is showing me kindness before I die.

B) In other words, she's giving the roses before the funeral.

1) There are some wives that never get flowers from their husband until they're dead. – Nice boutique

C) Just a thought - it would have been really cool if you'd have given that many flowers to her before she died. **A Freebie married guys**

D) **Mary is giving the flowers before the funeral, not at the funeral.**

### Now don't misunderstand what Jesus said when he says, "the poor you have with you always."

A) He is not advocating poverty. He is not being aloof from poverty.

B) Is he endorsing apathy toward those who are in poverty?

1) No. First of all, he's quoting a scripture.

Deuteronomy 15 says, "There will always be some among you who are poor; therefore, freely share."

C) In other words, you have that opportunity all the time,

1) so always be open to share because of the poverty that exists in this world.

What Christ is doing to Judas is setting forth a divine stewardship.

A) You say you got to keep your priorities.

B) Here is the principle, if I may paraphrase. There will always be opportunities for generous activity

C) but you have got to seize the opportunities for personal intimacy with God. Intentional about it

The needs are always there – wake up – text emails – needs.

A) I have to discipline myself to not immediately jump in –

B) I have to spend time at the feet of Jesus – hear from him worship him!!!

C) Notice something here – Jesus says “Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial.

Mary’s Perception: I believe this is a direct result of being at His feet! Insight {Spiritual sensitivity.

A) She had insight that the disciples missed

B) They were too worried about who is greatest

C) Mary sitting / soaking / thinking - / listening and believing –

1) She saw what no one else did –

D) Jesus mentioned to his followers several times how he was going to Jerusalem to die

1) They weren’t listening

E) Mary was – Special anointing for his burial  
Jesus said Mark 14:9 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.”

F) Here we are 2,000 yrs later considering and learning from her memorial

3<sup>rd</sup> Affect is in the house.

A) The fragrance of that perfume fills the house –

B) That is what happens when we are living a life of worship – there is a sweet fragrance that fills our house

C) Not stressed we are loving Jesus –

4<sup>th</sup> That fragrance was on MARY –

A) Mary – swipes the feet of Jesus with her hair and Mary ends up smelling like Jesus

B) The time that we spend with Jesus – morning Devos – sitting at his feet – his fragrance is on us

C) Said of Peter and John – they could tell that they had been with Jesus

Let me ask you this question:

A) What would people say about you – we can tell that you have been with FOX news – CNN – fill in the blank

B) What is better – they can tell that we have been with Jesus

C) Our world needs more of Jesus

Wrap up 2 thoughts – What would it look like for you to do something – extravagant worship

A) Different answer for all of us – we are in different places in our lives

B) But this act of extravagant worship was born out of Mary’s heart to just always be at the feet of Jesus

C) What does it look like for you to live a life of worship to Jesus

1) Jesus to be glorified and magnified in your life

Whatever you do in word or deed do all – for the glory of Jesus

A) Dishes be glorified – business – be glorified – parenting

B) I am doing this for you