

Matthew 26:1-16

Extravagant Love

(The King and His Kingdom)

Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples, 2 “You know that **after two days** is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.” 3 Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, 4 and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him. 5 But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

The religious leaders are wanting to avoid the feast but Jesus knows – this has to happen on the feast – **He is the final Passover lamb {two days – he is orchestrating this NOT THEM}**

6 And when Jesus **was in Bethany** at the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. 8 But when His disciples saw it, **they were indignant**, saying, “**Why this waste?** 9 For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor.”

10 But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. 11 For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. 12 For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. 13 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.”

14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

PRAY

We are in the final week of the life of Jesus – Calling it THE KINGS FINAL WEEK!

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

B) **Right 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.

C) **Favorite scene: It is bold yet intimate. It is in one sense over the top –**

1) But in another COMPLETELY APPROPRIATE

D) **Today we see a vivid Display of Extravagant love**

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) **Some scholars believe that Simon was the Father of Mary, Martha and Lazarus**

1) **The other gospel accounts tell us that – all three of them are present – Martha is serving.**

D) **Make sense that Martha would be comfortable in the house – if it was her fathers house**

So Lazarus is there – Brought back from the dead

A) **Martha is serving – but the woman who becomes the center of the attention is Mary**

B) **John’s gospel – tells us She is the woman with the an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil**

C) **Mary is at her common place at the Feet of Jesus**

1) **Every time we see her in one of the gospel accounts that is where she is? – JESUS FEET**

D) **Here we see her showing a display of extravagant love**

B) Consider 4 things today – look at her story

#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.

A) **Mary's worship:** - 1st Extravagant love is costly!

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

C) Mark 14 - 300 Denarii was a laborer's whole year's wages! - **A year's wage today: 30k, 40k 50k?**

Reserved for her wedding day.

A) Part of her dowry – Or it is WAS 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) The guy who owned the property said to King 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 Sam 24:24

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

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

A) 2nd Extravagant love **is personal and intimate!**

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

C) You don't just go kissing anybody – Someone you are not intimate with -

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

She Poured it over his Head – but John's gospel tells us she also anointed his feet –

A) Then she let down her hair and began to wipe his feet with her hair.

B) This is highly significant: See a Jewish woman would never let down her hair in public

1) A Jewish woman's hair was considered her glory.

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

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

D) Mary takes down her glory – her hair - washes – His feet – **Dirty – from dusty roads**

1) Dries with her hair {Amazing Love!}

Extravagant love is seen in worship is Personal and intimate.

A) Set aside **our glory – our image** – go against protocol – Cool calm and collected

B) We lay all that aside to declare to Jesus – You are awesome!

1) You are worthy!

C) 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

D) Set aside my glory – in order 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) The idea is this act of extravagant love – pained them –

1) caused a deep pain in their souls – they were visibly uncomfortable

C) Watching surgery on YouTube – Oww – painful

John's gospel tells us it was Judas who started the whole thing!

A) Judas was the treasurer of the group – he kept the money box –

B) John tells us that Judas was also thief who used to dip into the box

1) You could take a lot from a year's wage that would go undetected!

C) Isn't it interesting that Jesus would pick Judas to be the treasurer?

1) He knows who is going to betray him!

D) He knows the kind of guy that Judas is

1) Jesus gives us plenty of chances to turn things around – CHANGE/ **Rope – help ... Or HANG**

E) Interesting that the other disciples looked at Judas as the most trusted because he was the treasurer

1) Never suspected he was the betrayer –
"It is JUDAS -he looks like a Villian" Movies

So Judas is the one who starts this – RANT – look at this waste..... Sold and given to the poor!

A) Critical spirit is contagious –

B) All it takes is one person saying: **I don't understand that** /- or can you believe this – **I am sure – what waste!!!!**

C) **Pretty soon there is a mob- joining in. YEA**

1) A critical spirit is a contagious spirit – plays to our fleshly nature.

"Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases. As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife." Proverbs 26:20-21

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-**

B) **Are you kidding me – Football Season**

1) **You come on Wed 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!

D) There is always indignation toward extravagant love – **pp don't understand it**

#3 The Defense of extravagant love.

A) Jesus says V.10 "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me.

B) The word he uses here for good is not speaking of good – morally –but good in the sense of Beautiful.

1) **Wonderful – special !**

C) Mark's account – Jesus spoke sternly – Let her alone!!! - Probably looking at Judas

1) He rebukes his disciples

D) It is interesting that this seems to be the tipping point for Judas – He is done – had enough

1) His pride is wounded -

14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

E) How do you respond to rebuke? – Hurt? Angry?

1) I will show them? – Or do you allow the Lord to work in your heart? –

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) In fact most of us wake up each day with more on our plate and agenda – then we are able to accomplish in one day

D) Always needs – MANY THINGS vying for our time our attention – our energy our hearts

E) But listen: THE TIME WE GIVE TO JESUS HAS TO BE A PRIORITY

1) The time that we spend with Him Fuels everything else.

Man was created to worship!!!!

Tozer: “Mans nature indicates that he was created for three things: To think, to worship and to work. But thinking is not enough. Mans mind is not the top peak of his nature. Higher than his mind is his spirit, Men are made to worship, to bow down and adore in the presence of the wonder that is God.”

Every person everywhere worships, because worship is the fundamental drive of life.

A) Everyone, no matter who they are, worships someone or something.

B) Some worship a god of their own making.

1) Some people worship people. They worship sports heroes, actors, or musicians.

C) Some people worship themselves.

1) Some people worship possessions.

But everyone worships someone or something.

A) God created us with a drive, with a sense there is something more to life than what we experience on this earth.

The Bible says that God has placed eternity in our hearts (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

B) That simply means there is a recognition and a sense there is something more in life.

C) In reality, our ultimate purpose in life is not to attain success, fame, or even happiness, per se.

D) Our ultimate purpose in life is to know the God who made us.

1) To worship Him and Give glory to Him

You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.” — Revelation 4:11

Animals are not created with this drive!

A) The Bible clearly teaches that God uniquely created man in His own image. God has not placed eternity in the heart of a bird, a cat, or a dog.

B) I love my dog- he is awesome – but my dog doesn’t worship God

1) When we are leaving to come to church – he doesn’t grab his bible and run to the door – I want to come too!

C) In fact almost every morning – Denise and I sit together in our living room doing our Devos to start the day

1) He comes and stares at us – jumps up on our footstools – wines – play with me – Everyday –

D) He wants to be the center of attention

E) Denise puts on praise music – cleaning - He barks

1) He wants to be the center of attention

The Problem with some of us – the reason why we don’t worship/ we want to be the center of attention!

A) We rob God of the worship He deserves

B) John Chapter 4 Jesus is having a conversation with this woman in Samaria –

1) He made this statement:

“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.” John 4:23-24

C) Listen: God is not SEEKING worshippers because he is insecure and needs us to tell him how great he is

1) When we sing how great is our God – God is not like - **tell me more tell me how great I am**

D) God wants us to Worship Him because He knows it is essential to us!

Worship puts everything in perspective {He is BIG our problems are small

A) God is GREATER – everything – any obstacle

B)Worship centers us – reminds us that we exist for Him

1)He doesn't exist for us

C)Worship fuels our hearts and impacts our lives

#4 The Affects of extravagant love.

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

B)Every time we see Mary she is at Jesus feet

1)Luke 10 – Mary and Martha – Mary has chose the better part – not taken away from her

C)Chosen to sit at his feet – Martha before you serve you need to sit

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

1)Mary seems to be the only one who actually – heard him – She is clued in -

E)She chooses to anoint him for his burial.

1)Mary didn't go to the tomb?

Another affect **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

1)Here **we are 2017 yrs 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

E)What Legacy - Calvary Vista?

1)Impact in this community

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 – “I really sensed God's presence today at CV.”

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: Odor

A)Odor of Bitterness – Odor of Jealousy

B)The **Fragrance of Strife or competition** –

C)**The Fragrance of Busyness**

1)We know you are really busy – is that an assumption or is that the fragrance putting out

D)What is the Fragrance of Your life ?

1)What is the distinguishing mark ?

E)If it is not Jesus – You can Change that

Listen If we realize – We were made to worship God

A)Not just singing – but a life – exist to bring Him Glory – the way that we live

B)Our Priorities and pursuits – the Results will be

1)Spiritual insight – Blessing from the Lord

C)Best of all – People will know – He/she has been with Jesus! Christians will recognize it

D)**Unbelievers will notice - Something different Something Distinct – about you.**

1)Some will even question- something different about you?

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