

Extravagant Worship - April 6, 2022

This past Sunday we were taught about the anointing of Jesus in the Gospels. Three women poured their adoration upon the Anointed One, Jesus. Thank you, Pastor Doug, for helping us slow down and really observe these acts of extravagant worship.

In Luke 7:36-50, we meet a woman with a bad reputation. Her sinful lifestyle caused her to be the brunt of the religious community's judgment. Broken and weeping, she washed Jesus' feet with her tears, wiped them dry with her hair, and poured the expensive perfumed oil on His feet. This woman's honest, humble act of extravagant worship opened the door to forgiveness and new life with Jesus that day.

In John 12:1-11, Mary, sister of Lazarus, with overwhelming gratitude is at the feet of Jesus. Their family had just experienced first-hand the resurrection power of Jesus! After all, Lazarus had died and been buried. Now they were all sitting together, sharing a meal in Bethany. She poured a pound, 16 ounces, of pure nard on His feet and wiped them with her hair. This ointment was not easy to come by. The notes in the Amplified Bible say, "This was a thick, scented oil obtained from the root of a flowering plant grown in the Himalayas of Tibet and in the northern regions of India and Nepal." You couldn't order it from Amazon and it was worth about a year's wages for an ordinary workman.

Mary's love and devotion for Jesus were displayed in an outward act of extravagant worship.

In Mark 14:1-11, just two days before Passover, Jesus and His disciples were dining with Simon the Leper in Bethany. A woman pours a bottle of expensive perfumed oil over His head. This action created intense criticism and opposition. But the woman's focus was on Jesus, not the onlookers at the table. Such extravagant worship that Jesus said, in verse 9, "I assure you and most solemnly say to you, wherever the good news [regarding salvation] is proclaimed throughout the world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Take a moment and think about how you worship the Lord.

Are we ready to offer extravagant worship to our Risen King, Jesus?

Here are a few synonyms of the word extravagant: costly, expensive, flamboyant, & lavish. The reason we worship Jesus is not to be seen and recognized by others. Extravagant worship comes from genuine love that cannot be hidden. This worship is free from the thoughts of anyone but the object of its affection. It

flows unhindered from fear of what others may say or think. It is received by God as a precious fragrance.

Let us pour out our hearts in humble praise to Him who has freed us from sin and death into an eternal relationship with Him.

Bow at His feet!

Consider Who He is and all He has done for you. Invite the Holy Spirit to show you how to lavish God with your worship. It comes with a price tag. It will cost time, our most limited resource. It may cost you your reputation with your co-workers or family. They may call you a fanatic or foolish. But God sees your heart and knows that He is the object of your desire. Those who have been forgiven much, love much.

So, dear believers, let's consider these three women's acts of extravagant worship and ask the Holy Spirit to draw us closer to Himself.

In Jesus' Name,
Amen.

Your sister in Jesus,
Liz