

## The Extravagant Life

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### *The Embassy Church - Small Group Notes – Sunday, May 26, 2019*

Have you ever seen the popular TV show *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*? It's known for one thing only – how some people in this world live in absolute extravagance! It's usually all for themselves too. Did you know there's an extravagant lifestyle God has designed just for you?

Blessings!

Pastor Doug Schneider

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### **Scriptures – All Scriptures New Living Translation**

*John 11:1-20*

A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha.

<sup>2</sup> This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. <sup>3</sup> So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."

<sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." <sup>5</sup> So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> he stayed where he was for the next two days. <sup>7</sup> Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."

<sup>8</sup> But his disciples objected. "Rabbi," they said, "only a few days ago the people in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?"

<sup>9</sup> Jesus replied, "There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But at night there is danger of stumbling because they have no light." <sup>11</sup> Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up."

<sup>12</sup> The disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!" <sup>13</sup> They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.

<sup>14</sup> So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him."

<sup>16</sup> Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go, too—and die with Jesus."

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. <sup>18</sup> Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss. <sup>20</sup> When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house.

John 11:32-47

<sup>32</sup> When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. <sup>34</sup> “Where have you put him?” he asked them.

They told him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Then Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup> The people who were standing nearby said, “See how much he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some said, “This man healed a blind man. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”

<sup>38</sup> Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. <sup>39</sup> “Roll the stone aside,” Jesus told them.

But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, “Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.”

<sup>40</sup> Jesus responded, “Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?” <sup>41</sup> So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. <sup>42</sup> You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, “Unwrap him and let him go!”

<sup>45</sup> Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen.

<sup>46</sup> But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup> Then the leading priests and Pharisees called the high council together. “What are we going to do?” they asked each other. “This man certainly performs many miraculous signs.

John 12:1-5

Six days before the Passover celebration began, Jesus arrived in Bethany, the home of Lazarus—the man he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> A dinner was prepared in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, and Lazarus was among those who ate with him. <sup>3</sup> Then Mary took a twelve-ounce jar of expensive perfume made from essence of nard, and she anointed Jesus’ feet with it, wiping his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance.

<sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would soon betray him, said, <sup>5</sup> “That perfume was worth a year’s wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor.”

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*If your God is small, then you should never be extravagant. But, if He's big...  
then you've just found your new lifestyle for Jesus and others.*

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**Main Points: The Extravagant Life Defined**

- 1) Serving Others
- 2) Generous Giving
- 3) Loving Everyone
- 4) Sacrificial Time
- 5) Undeserved Forgiveness
- 6) Expressive Thanks

**Digger Deeper - Discussion Questions**

*Revelation*

- What did Martha do to Jesus that showed her extravagant life?
- How do others often respond when seeing people living an extravagant life and doing extravagant things? (Especially when doing extravagant things for Jesus).

*Interpretation*

- What causes a person to live an extravagant lifestyle?
- How does giving – as listed in the six main points of this message – lead to an extravagant lifestyle?

*Application*

- Are you living an extravagant lifestyle for Jesus?
- How can you begin to live an extravagant life for Jesus?

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*Extravagant is going beyond the average or what is acceptable, or even required. It will probably seem excessive and unnecessary to others, and might even be offensive to some.*

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**Quotable Quotes**

- God wants us to have an extravagant lifestyle of giving to others.
- When you recognize God has done something incredible and extravagant for you in your personal life, you will then begin living extravagantly for Him.