

Am I Generous?

From Blessed to Beyond Blessed

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Opening Text

John 12:1-6

Things to Consider:

Why would Mary give such an extravagant gift?

Why would Judas be so mad about this gift?

Having a heart of generosity rather than a heart of selfishness.

The Enemy of Generosity

- We are all born selfish. When we are born again, we are born again to be generous.
- The enemy would say extravagance is defined as someone having more than me.
- Judas was placed in charge of the offering box by Jesus.
 - Jesus gave Judas that authority to test him.
 - Money was created by God as a test.
 - The book of Malachi teaches us that those who do not tithe are stealing from God.
- Would you take money from the offering plate?
 - The obvious answer is “no”, but would you also keep money in your account that belongs to God? The bible teaches that both responses are the same.
- The enemy of generosity is selfishness!

The Extravagance of Generosity

- Extravagance isn't measured in the amount; it's measured in the heart.
 - David, a wealthy king, gave \$21 billion (figured for today's economy) to the temple while the widow gave 2 mites ($\frac{1}{100}$ of a cent in today's economy).
 - God was pleased with both gifts, not because of their amount, but because of the heart of the giver.
 - The oil Mary used, from the opening text, was roughly 300 days' worth of wages.
- Could we give God, a God that has everything, a gift that would impress him?
 - Yes, we can! (2 Corinthians 8:5)
 - Zephaniah 3:17 tells us that God will rejoice over us.
 - The word "rejoice" in this text is translated in Hebrew as "to jump up and down and twirl around".
 - When you give yourself to the Lord he jumps up and down and twirls around in your presence.
 - How then can saints who are redeemed by the Lord sit in silence during worship when we know from scripture that God will "rejoice" with us?
- Giving is not about the amount of your treasure, it's about your heart.
 - Giving a great amount is not a direct reflection of your heart.
 - God wants to develop in us a heart that is like our Heavenly Father's.
 - The bible says that where your heart is your treasure will be.
- What is extravagant giving?
 - If a tithe belongs to God (returned to him) and an offering is a designated gift, then an extravagant gift is beyond those.
 - Tithers typically become offering givers but not every offering giver becomes an extravagant gift giver. Some givers are called to give generous amounts.

The Reward of Generosity

- How does God reward Mary?
 - The scripture says that what she did will be a memorial to her and this memorial will be taught for generations to come.
- Why did Mary offer such a generous gift?
 - The bible tells us that two months prior, Mary's brother, Lazarus was raised from the dead.
 - Generosity comes from gratefulness.
- If your family member was raised from the dead would you not be so gracious as to give a gift to the one who raised them from the dead?
 - Paul says that we were all dead but we have been raised into new life.
 - What greater gift is there than new life?

- God rewards generously!
 - God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him (Hebrews 11:6).
 - In this text “reward” is translated as “reward with extravagance”.
- God doesn’t just reward what’s due, He rewards with extravagance!