

EXTRAVAGANCE

I know this word is not often used in our service to God or with Christian living.

As a matter of fact, a lot of ministers and leaders have been criticized for living too lavishly

But I'm talking about our extravagant worship and love for God that has no limit

Mark 14:1-9 After two days it was the Passover and *the Feast of Unleavened Bread*. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by ^[a]trickery and put *Him* to death. ² But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people."

³ And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly ^[b]oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured *it* on His head. ⁴ But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted? ⁵ For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they criticized^[c] her sharply.

⁶ But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. ⁷ For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. ⁸ She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. 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."

You cannot read this passage without seeing what she offered to Jesus was pure extravagance!

Let's look at our passage:

V. 1,2

Thousands and thousands of people poured into Jerusalem to prepare and celebrate Passover while other religious leaders were plotting to kill Jesus

V. 3

Every night Jesus and His disciples would leave Jerusalem and head to Bethany to the house of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus

Where the house was is not important but what happened inside was

While they were all around the table reclining, Mary came near to Jesus. She broke her alabaster box and Mark said she poured it over His head. The fragrance immediately filled the room

My friend, this was no small offering – her great love and devotion to Jesus was poured out with an extravagant act of love!

V. 4,5

This perfume would have been imported from India. Its cost was 300 days wages. What an extravagant offering and it angered everyone in the room, except the recipient, Jesus

V. 6-9

Jesus defended her for her beautiful act of worship. He said the poor would be with you always but He wouldn't be much longer. She had anointed Jesus for His death

V. 9

He said her extravagance would be remembered forever, as long as the gospel is preached, her act would never be forgotten!

What can we learn from Mary's worship?

We all have an alabaster box

Yes, Mary had means to have had this much pure perfume, it was the way she enjoyed her wealth

I guess the point is, she brought what was dearest to her and poured it on Jesus to show how much she loved Him and to prepare Him for what was ahead.

(it was costly to her but no cost was too much for Jesus)

Today you have an alabaster box. It's the one thing in your life you count dearer than anything else.

Have you ever offered God an extravagant offering? Something that meant a lot to you?

What if He would ask you to shower it upon Him as an act of worship today?

Everyone can worship like this

Unfortunately in our text only Mary was worshiping like this. I didn't see anyone else joining in with their extravagant offering to Jesus

Think of it this way, Mary's extravagance could have started revival in her house but no one recognized this was a divine opportunity!

What if today is your day and now is your time?

This could be your opportunity to bring the thing you hold dearest to Jesus

Don't worry, there will be critics that will tell you that would be such a waste of a gift and resources

Why didn't you offer that extravagant worship to someone else instead of the Lord?

People will resent your extravagant worship for the Lord, even believers have reasons why you should tone down your praise, your sacrifice, your lavish expression laid upon Jesus

Will you and I be like Mary?

Will we pour out all of whatever we have that we are bringing to Him in my worship?

Make up your mind. Don't let anyone stop you!

Will you be remembered for your extravagance to God?