



Inside Out Giving: Living for God Extravagantly

Big Idea 1: When I'm _____ to Jesus on the inside it shows up through my _____ on the outside.

Mark 14:3 While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head. 4 Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? 5 It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly. 6 "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. 7 The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. 8 She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. 9 I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

- 1) Some people see giving to God as a _____ of money.
"waste" Vs 4
 - 2) Some people get high octane _____ when it comes to giving.
"indignantly... rebuked her harshly" Vs 4
 - 3) When it comes to giving it's easy to think of the other good things to _____. *"It could have been sold..." Vs 5*
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Big Idea 2: Giving is an act of worship that flows from a heart touched by Jesus.

Luke 7:37 When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, 38 and as she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. 39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is--that she is a sinner."

Luke 7:44 Then he turned towards the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven-- for she loved much....

John 12:3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. 7 "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.

1 Corinthians 11:15 but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory...

Small Group Discussion Questions

Inside Out Giving

Getting Started:

- 1) What is the best gift (actual present), that you ever received from another person?
- 2) What would you tell someone to help them see past giving as a just a “money thing” and recognize it as an act of worship.

Going Deeper:

- 3) What would you tell someone to help them see past giving as a just a “money thing” and recognize it as an act of worship.
- 4) Throughout the Bible (Since the first human family in Genesis 4) Giving to God has been a part of worship? Why do you think God calls us to give to Him? What do we express through giving? What do we learn through giving? Or to make it more personal. What have you learned by giving to God?
- 5) It's been said that you can learn what's important to people by looking at their checkbooks and their date planners. Is this true? In 2Corinthians 8:7, what was Paul hoping to test by looking at the church's “checkbook”?
- 6) Read Luke 14:33. Dr. Bill Bright once said, “Either Jesus Christ is Lord of all or He is not Lord at all.” What do you think he means by this? - What does this have to do with giving as an act of worship?
- 7) Read Malachi 1:8-10. Was it the amount of the offering that God was displeased about? Why wouldn't God accept such offerings?
- 8) Read 2 Corinthians 8:2. It looks like something is wrong with the math in that verse. How does the most severe trial plus overflowing joy plus extreme poverty equal rich generosity?
- 9) When it comes to giving, do you think God cares more about quantity or quality? Increasing quantity is easy but how would a person go about increasing the quality of his/her giving? Could the two be connected? What Bible passages would you point to that address this question?
- 10) On Sunday, the statement was made, “A portion of what God gives us, is intended to be given back to God as an act of worship”. How do you figure out that portion in your life?

Putting It Into Practice:

- 11) What can you do to make (or keep) giving a “worship” thing and not just a “money” thing?
- 12) What would you tell someone who wants to give, but struggles because of their financial situation?