



# Sermon Notes from 11 November

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## Extravagant Love (*Matthew 26:6-13*)

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There is a connection between generosity and love. *"Giving is true loving"*—Charles Spurgeon. We will give generously to something that we truly love. In order to address the issue of generosity, we need to address the issue of our love. The generosity of the woman with the alabaster jar is so outstanding, that it is recorded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and John. She is identified as Mary (John 12).

### Remarkable Generosity Is

#### **1. Sensitive (Matt 26:2)**

Despite being told by Jesus 4 times of His impending crucifixion, the disciples did nothing. Only Mary responded (Matt 26:7). *Why is Mary's response so different from the disciples' response?*

#### 2 Reasons

##### #1 Mary understood Jesus

When someone finally understands what you have been telling them, it comes with great relief. By her actions, Mary was communicating to Jesus what words could not express; Lord I hear and understand You.

##### #2 Mary listened

Mary was always found listening and learning at the feet of Jesus. As she listened, she also believed, and pondered, which led her to pour out the best thing that she owned onto Jesus' feet.

#### ***How do we sit at the feet of Jesus?***

By reading and studying His Word (Jn 1:1). Only then will we discover what Mary knew – there is no better place than sitting at the feet of Jesus. Jesus speaks to us, instructs and teaches us through the Word.

#### **2. Extravagant (Matt 26:7)**

Remarkable Generosity exceeds all limits of reasonableness or necessity. It is something that brings great joy to the giver. Mary demonstrated this kind of generosity. How much did she give to

Jesus? It was equivalent to a whole year of salary. Mary not only gave the best to Jesus, but also gave it **ALL** to Him. Her devotion to Jesus was so deep, her giving brought her nothing but joy. When the disciples saw this, they reacted in anger saying: *"Why this waste?"*. They wanted it given to the poor instead. However, that was not the real reason behind their outrage. **Evil often masquerades itself as Righteousness.**

Their complaint revealed that they loved something else more than Jesus. Whenever a lavish amount of generosity is poured onto something you don't care about, you will complain. *Is Jesus worthy of your most valuable possession?*

#### **3. Beautiful (Matt 26:10)**

It was customary during Jesus' time to anoint a person before burial (Matt 26:12). God used Mary to anoint His Son before His death. It was a beautiful act of devotion and adoration. Jesus loved her gift not because of how expensive it was but because of her heart.

*"The heart of a giver makes the gift dear and precious"*—Martin Luther

Mary's extravagant love towards Jesus is inspiring. But the extravagant love poured out by Jesus towards us is even more lavish. The greatest love story is what Jesus did on the Cross for us. While Mary poured out her very expensive perfume, Jesus poured out His blood to redeem us. Jesus did all of this because you are His treasure. Let us respond by giving Him our best. *"The measure of life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation"*—Corrie ten Boom. It's not how long you live, but how much you're willing to give away for the glory of God. **Let the Son of God be your ultimate treasure!**