

John 12:1-8

12 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead.

2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him.

3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said,

5 "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?"

6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

7 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial.

8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

- Why would Mary give such an extravagant gift?
- Why would her gift get Judas so upset?

What we see in this passage are two hearts that are on display.

- A heart of Generosity and
- A heart of Selfishness.

And I want you to notice what revealed each heart – giving.

This is a amazing story because when He talks about Judas he makes this statement,

“Why wasn't this sold and given to the poor?”

Judas said that. And we can do this more than you think because we see the extravagance or the perceived extravagance of someone else.

By the way let me give you a definition for extravagance – the one who has more then you.

That neighborhood is an extravagant neighborhood....until you get a raise and can afford to move in there.

We tend to want to point to someone else so that we don't have to point to ourselves.

God will test you...not tempt you.

James 1:13 tells us that God does not tempt anyone.

1 Corinthians 10:13 with every temptation He will provide a way of escape for you.

God will test you in the area of your finances and give you an opportunity to succeed.

Could you give a gift to God that would impress him?

Everything is His, He paves His streets with gold. Gates of pearl, walls made of precious stones...

Could you give a gift to God that would impress Him? The answer is yes!

2 Corinthians 8:5

...they first gave themselves to the Lord...

Zephaniah 3:17 says that God rejoices over you. The language paints this picture that God jumps and twirls over your life. Some of the translations say 'dances'

It isn't the amount, it is the attitude, and it is that you are giving Him your heart.

Generosity comes from gratitude.

Grateful people are generous.

If one of your family members was raised from the dead do you think it would change the way that you give?

I have news for you. Everyone that is here who professes Christ has been raised from the dead.

Ephesians 2:1

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

But He has made us alive.

A Grateful heart will be a generous one.