



Small Group Work Sheet

John 12:1-11 - The Biblical Case for Extravagant Living

April 28, 2013

Part 1 - Ice Breaker

1. What are some of the most extravagant lifestyles you have seen on television or read about?

Part 2 - Sermon Review

2. Read John 12:1-3. Close your eyes and imagine the scene. Put yourself in the room. How would you have responded to Mary? Why?
3. Read John 12:4-8. When is extravagance appropriate? When is it crossing the line?
4. Read Matthew 26:6-13 and Mark 14:3-9. This is the same account told from Matthew and Mark's perspective. What helpful information do they add? Why do you think John described the situation the way he did with his particular emphasis?
5. Read 2 Samuel 24:24. Why is extravagance for Christ essential?
6. How does greed keep us from extravagant love?

7. How has the extravagant love of others been an encouragement to you?
8. This week, plan one extravagant act of love for others out of gratefulness to Jesus.

1. What would be an extravagant act of service you could do for others in the name of Jesus, like Martha?
2. What would be an extravagant act of giving you could do for others in the name of Jesus, like Mary?

Part 3 - Digging Deeper - Following Christ means abandoning your pride.

Mary has done several disgraceful things. She washed and anointed Jesus' feet. In the first century, foot washing was such a lowly and disgusting job that in most municipalities it was illegal to make your slave wash your feet. It was too demeaning. In addition, Mary let down her hair. While it communicated great love for Jesus, it was disgraceful for her. What was Mary doing? She was saying, "I don't care what people think. I know who Jesus is. I know what he has done. He deserves all my honor. There is no act of devotion that is beneath my dignity. There is no act of devotion where I care more about what others think of me than of what Jesus thinks of me."

Mary abandoned her pride. Pride is a deep impulse in the human heart that says to God, the world and to life, "You owe me." It is an impulse deep within us that says, "God, world, life... you owe me a better life than I already have."

People who are financially well off like Mary and Martha must abandon their sense of dignity and pride when they come to Christ. You cannot say, "If I become a Christian, if I go to church, will they be the kind of people I want to stick around with? If I become a Christian and serve in the church, I will not clean the toilets or vacuum the floors. That is too lowly of a job. After all, how will I look if people see me?"

Look at Mary, a woman who could afford perfume worth a year's wages, wiping Jesus' stinking feet with her hair. She said, I don't care what anybody else thinks. Loving Christ is worth it.