



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

## A Portrait of Extravagant Worship (Relationship Series, Part 5)

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Extravagant means exceeding what is reasonable or appropriate. It is usually negative since it is excessive. However, when people express their extravagant love for Jesus, there is nothing wrong with it. This is only fitting since everything comes from Him (Jn 13:1-3).

### A. Mary gave everything for Jesus (Mk 14:3-9)

1. The value of her worship was really extravagant.
  - 1.1. The expensive oil that she poured on Jesus' head was worth one year's salary.
  - 1.2. The bottle that she broke was a symbol that He was an extinguished guest.
  - 1.3. In traditional burial practice, the fragrance of the oil permeates the place.
2. The expression of her worship was extravagant.
  - 2.1. She knelt in humility before Jesus. On the other hand, the disciples were indignant and rebuked her over the waste of expensive perfume.
  - 2.2. Mary was willing to be a common slave. She surrendered her pride.
  - 2.3. She was willing to be seen with her hair down (in those times, this was a sign of an immoral woman).
3. The enlargement of her worship was extravagant.
  - 3.1. Mary was LEARNING. In their home, she was at the feet of Jesus listening to Him (Lk 10).
  - 3.2. Mary was LEANING. In the tomb of Lazarus, she ran and supplicated before Jesus.
  - 3.3. Mary was LOVING (Jn 12:1-12, Mk 14:1-9, Mt 26:6-13)

### B. The best gift that Jesus is asking from us is ourselves.

1. What is the "alabaster jar" in our life that we are giving Him – time, talent, treasure, obedience?
2. The fragrance of our worship should fill the house. We should spread joy and peace to the world.
3. We must serve Him with our best as an expression of our love, and because He is the King of kings. Nothing will be too extravagant if we love Him.
4. We should be giving Jesus the first fruits, not the left-overs (Prov3). Are we giving our best in service?
5. Fear of man is sometimes our concern. Rather, we should fear the Lord. There will always be people who will criticize us, but there will also be people who will be touched (Mt 23:12).

**Conclusion:** God is honored when we display our love for Him extravagantly. Let us lay everything at His feet and worship Him.

### Reflection:

1. What is Jesus worth to you? How do you value your relationship with your Lord and Savior?
2. Is there room for more love and sacrifice in your life?
3. Are you wholeheartedly giving your time and best effort? Do you prepare yourself before service by coming early?
4. Do you freely express your love for Jesus publicly?.

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