

EXTRAVAGANT LOVE
Ashes To Easter – Lent 5
March 17, 2013

John 12:1-2 (NIV) *“Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him.”*

REALLY EXTRAVAGANT LOVE...

1. Goes beyond REASON.

John 12:3a (NIV) *“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.”*

Matthew 26:28 (NIV) *“This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”*

**In light of what Jesus has done for you, how
extravagantly have you demonstrated your love for Him?**

2. Makes an IMPRESSION on others.

John 12:3b (NIV) *“And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”*

**Extravagant love makes an impression!
It has a look, an action, a smell and a sound.**

2 Corinthians 2:15-16 (NIV) *“For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life.”*

3. Doesn't cave under CRITICISM.

John 12:4-6 (NIV) *“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.”*

4. Is PLEASING to the Lord.

John 12:7-8 (NIV) *“‘Leave her alone,’ Jesus replied. ‘It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of My burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have Me.’ ”*

**Extreme acts of worship are often misunderstood,
but be assured... they're never a mistake.**

John 14:2 (NIV) *“My Father's house has many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?”*

Acts of extravagant love are always pleasing to the Lord.

Romans 12:1 (NCV) *“So brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy, I beg you to offer your lives as a living sacrifice to Him. Your offering must be only for God and pleasing to Him, which is the spiritual way for you to worship.”*

**Extravagant love like that of Mary is the
kind of love to which we are called.**

John 15:12 (NIV) *“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”*

John 3:16a (NIV) *“For God so loved the world that He gave...”*

Give yourself completely to God!