



# The Surprising Joy of Generosity

Mark 14:3-9

**What if your friend gave you a new car? ... a check for \$40,000? ... a kidney?**

**The Event:** Mary pours a bottle of perfume—a year’s worth of wages—on Jesus’ head.

**Mary *recognized* God as worthy of anointing.**

- He is worthy in *Himself*—His perfections.
- He is worthy in His *Words*—grace and truth.
- He is worthy in His *Works*—creating, sustaining, rescuing, and much more.

**Mary *related* to God with devotion and gratitude.**

- Great help from Jesus led to devotion and gratitude from Mary.

**Mary *responded* to God with an extravagant gift.**

#1 It was a good deed done to Jesus Himself. v 6

#2 It was timely—given before Jesus returned to heaven. v 7

#3 It was to the maximum of her personal capacity. v 8a

#4 It was appropriate for the need of the moment—anointing Jesus for burial. v 8b

#5 It was memorable. v 9

**Idea:** Our response to God’s extravagant generosity ... is extravagant gifts to Him.

- Jesus poured out Himself for us (Phil 2) and we pour out ourselves for Him.

# Walking Papers”

*Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.*

**Idea:** Our response to God’s extravagant generosity...is extravagant gifts to Him.

- Jesus poured out Himself for us (Phil 2) and we pour out ourselves for Him.

**Please read:** Mark 14:3-9 each day this week.

- **Today.** What are the ways that Jesus has been extravagant in His giving to you? Make a list and reflect on them and thank Him.
- **Monday.** Please read Philippians 2:1-11. How would you describe what Jesus poured out for you in Philippians 2?
- **Tuesday.** Please read Luke 7:40-50. What is the connection between being forgiven and loving? Where do you stand in your own life—have you been forgiven? If forgiven, how have you responded to God in love?
- **Wednesday.** In Mark 14:3-9 why does Jesus commend Mary? What specifically did He say was good about what she had done?
- **Thursday.** In Mark 14:3-9 what is the relationship between what Mary did and what the others said about her action? What is the application for you today in your service to God?
- **Friday.** In Mark 14:3-9 what is the point of Jesus saying that this woman and her action would be remembered wherever the Gospel is preached in the whole world? Has this happened? Please read Hebrews 6:10. What does this verse mean for your personal life and ministry?
- **Saturday.** Please read 1 Kings 19:1-18 and reflect on this event for tomorrow’s study.

*Note for Connection Groups:* The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: [www.cypressbible.org](http://www.cypressbible.org) and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.