

Stewardship Forum

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Stewardship Tools for Leaders : Sermon Library

Title: Have You Ever Been Involved in Extravagant Giving?

Author: Revd Brian Kluth, First Free Church of Colorado Springs, USA

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Read: Mark 14:3-9

Extravagant = Exceeding appropriate boundaries; wild; excessive; unrestrained; out of bounds; out of the box; beyond normal limits.

1 - Have you ever given OR seen an extravagant gift given to the Lord?

Mark 14:3 While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume (i.e. worth a year's wages), made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

1 Chron 29:1-5 King David said to the whole assembly...The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the LORD God. With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God- gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, marble, - all of these in large quantities. Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures...over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple.

2 - Have you ever noticed that extravagant giving troubles some people?

Mark 14:4-5 Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly (=snorted with anger, murmured, groaned, yelled).

John 12:4-6 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." 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.

3 – Do you realize that extravagant giving will be defended by Christ and the angels?

Mark 14:6-7 "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me.

Rev 5:11-12 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: "**Worthy is the Lamb**, who was slain, **to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!**"

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4 – Do you realize that extravagant giving comes from what God has given you?

Mark 14:8 She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial.

Ps 24:1 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it...

1 Chr 29:14-17 (David prayed) "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand...as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you."

5 – Do you realize that your extravagant giving can be an example and encouragement to others?

Mark 14:9 I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

1 Chron 29:5-9 (King David said) "Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the LORD?" Then the leaders...gave willingly...The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the LORD. David the king also rejoiced greatly.

About the Author - Brian Kluth is a national and international speaker and writer. He is also a church pastor and the founder of Kingdom Seekers- a ministry dedicated to advancing Biblical generosity through inspirational preaching, leadership training seminars, writing, resources and the media. Brian's written materials have been distributed to more than 350,000 Christian leaders in more than 100 countries. For additional materials or to contact Brian, email: brian@kluth.org