

April 14, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

EXTRAVAGANT LOVE!

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

*“Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil
made from genuine aromatic nard
and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair;
the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.”*

JOHN 12:3

Reflection

Have you held in your arms a newborn and fallen immediately and intensely in love? Remember your deepest loving relationship and how you choose to be with, care for, support, assist in any way that most benefits that loved one. When and how do you spend yourself for someone you love? Trace the pattern of your love that is deep, total, freely given and unconditional.

We begin Holy Week with a story that evokes expansive love, immense gratitude, and an unbounded affection. Because Mary loved Jesus so well, she senses what is to come. Mary's anointing signals the beginning of the end. Jesus is drawn into the fullness of his mission, the final witness, the total self-gift of himself for you and me. With the release of the beautiful scent of aromatic nard filling the room, permeating our imagination, we are drawn into the extravagance of God's great love, poured out upon us in the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus' death on a cross.

Mary expressed her love for Jesus with the pouring out of expensive perfumed oil. Her realization of what was to come, and her extravagant love, was revealed in anointing the ONE who, despite the cost, gives all of himself for me and for you. Another, who fails to comprehend the magnitude of the ritual action, dares to criticize the waste!

The extravagance of her gesture alerts me to the unconditional, all-inclusive love of God for us. Love makes all the difference. God who first loved me asks me to love as He loves, in the way I live, speak, pray, relate and serve.

Be in the moment, breathe in the fragrance. Remember how he loves you. Express your own love for Jesus, let love flow freely this week. Stand by him as we remember his life poured out for you and me.



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For Pondering

WHAT EXTRAVAGANCE

In bold faith and courageous love, a woman quietly enters.
A jar of perfume poured out over Jesus and a question is born:
WHAT IS THE POINT OF SUCH EXTRAVAGANCE?

Why this waste? I don't know.

I honestly don't know but if this shocks you so,
Get ready for you will see more... More than costly perfume poured out.

You'll see lives poured out
Given freely, used up, spilled out, wasted for no reason at all.

Extravagance unlimited,
Lives poured out, handed over, lost, thrown away
for this man, Jesus.

And what is the point of such extravagance? Why this waste?

A beautiful question with no answer.

And how sad if no one has ever asked it of us.

“Why such extravagance?”
Aren’t you wasting your life on this man, Jesus?
Yes, **YOU!**

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