



## Encounters with Jesus – An Encounter of Extravagance

**Date:** Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March

**Speaker:** Michael Gowen (City Centre), Pete Spafford (South Site)

**Key Verses:** John 12: 1-11

### Talk Summary:

An extravagant God calls us to reflect His extravagance in creation and the extravagant love of Jesus by the way in which we handle our money and possessions, time and blessing – being inspired by Mary's example in this passage. However, extravagance divides a room and may shock people.

We need to learn to recognise the prompting of the Holy Spirit through our intuition as well as through our mind. Mary's action was crazy, even foolish (when looked at logically). But it was Spirit-prompted, because Jesus commended her. Extravagance without the Spirit can become recklessness.

### **Worship**

*Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.*

*(Small group worship resources can be found at [bvc.so/sgworship](http://bvc.so/sgworship))*

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

*If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:*

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

### **Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)**

- Share a time when you were extravagant. How did you feel about it? How did others feel if they were involved?

- How could you be extravagant with your money and possessions? How would you know that this was not simply being reckless?
- How could you be extravagant and give a little more time to God, perhaps once a week? What would you like to do in that time with Him?
- Who could you bless this week, both prayerfully and practically?
- Who do you find it difficult to bless in your prayers? Given that Jesus tells us bless our enemies and those who persecute us, what steps could you take to begin to bless these people?
  - Note: If somebody has seriously hurt us, we are not called to have contact with them, but we are called to bless them in our prayers and in our words.
- Share an experience of when the Holy Spirit communicated with you through your intuition. What was the outcome of this?

**Witness** - *How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?*

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?
  - Upcoming Events (go to [bvc.so/whats-on](http://bvc.so/whats-on) for details)
    - Young Adults Retreat: 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March