

HE **MUST** INCREASE

LINK TO
WATCH SERMON



LINK TO LISTEN
TO SERMON



He Must Increase... *In our Generosity*

Warm-Up Question:

Were your parents generous as you were growing up? Did you think their generosity (or lack of) affected your view of money and giving?

READ: John 12:1-8; Mark 14:9

I. GENEROSITY RESISTED

- ▶ Why was Judas angry about the expensive ointment being used on Jesus? What was the difference between what he said and what was in his heart?
- ▶ Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10. Money itself is not evil, but what can make it so dangerous in terms of what's in our heart and what we trust in?
- ▶ Discuss your own struggles with money. What in your heart keeps you from being more generous?

II. GENEROSITY RELISHED

- ▶ What was the value of the ointment, and what is going on in Mary's heart by anointing Jesus with it?
- ▶ Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19 and discuss the motivations given for being generous. Which of those motivates you most to be generous?
- ▶ How did Jesus respond to Mary's gift (v. 7-8)? What is he communicating?

III. GENEROSITY REVERBERATED

- ▶ Read Mark 14:9. How did Mary's gift produce a lasting impact, and what does that communicate about our generosity?
- ▶ Read 2 Corinthians 8:9 and discuss what kind of riches Jesus gave up for us, in what ways he became poor, and what kind of riches he gave us.
- ▶ Share one way you'd like to grow in your heart toward giving and generosity?

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

For Prayer Time:

- ▶ For our hearts to really trust in God and find our security in him.
- ▶ For God to help us find more happiness in living generously in all of life



SEVEN RIVERS
C H U R C H

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Scripture Passages Used:

John 12:1 Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. **2** So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. **3** Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. **4** But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, **5** “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” **6** He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. **7** Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. **8** For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”

Mark 14:9 And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.”

1Tim. 6:9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

1Tim. 6:17 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. **18** They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, **19** thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

Mark 14:9 And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.”

2Cor. 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.