

## EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY LIFE GROUP WEEK 4

### **Introduction**

We are focusing this week on the story of the sinful woman who poured her vase of expensive perfume on Jesus. The story is found in Luke 7:36-50. We are looking at the difference between her response to Jesus and Simon's, the host of the banquet. We will compare what we call "maximizers" and "minimizers": those who magnify and respond to God's goodness with their whole hearts and those who have been given the same grace but make little of it. We want to learn how to become someone who "overflows with gratitude." (Colossians 2:7)

1. What stands out to you in the story of this sinful woman? How does she break the mold of religious tradition and become transformed by her response to Jesus? Can you relate to the time you went from thinking of Jesus as a religion to encountering Jesus in a relationship? What does she teach us about how we should respond to Jesus' grace and mercy?
  
2. In the story we see that realizing grace creates gratitude and gratitude naturally overflows in generosity and intimacy with God. Why do you think people have a hard time grasping grace and feeling the full impact of it on their lives?
  - a. They are still approaching God based on works righteousness: thinking God's approval is based on their performance.
  - b. They believe the devil's lies that they are unworthy and unqualified for God's love.
  - c. They have never realized how serious their sins are and think of themselves as somewhat deserving of God's love.
  - d. They don't understand what it means to be given the gift of God's unconditional love and favor.
  - e. They take grace for granted.
  
3. Which reasons stands out to you for being a person who maximizes awareness and gratitude for the goodness of God? Why?
  - a. It's not what you have that determines your joy and contentment but how grateful you are for what you have.
  - b. In a fallen world there is always a choice to maximize the bad or the good.
  - c. When we maximize God's goodness, we store grace inside of us for future trials.
  - d. What we maximize we multiply.
  - e. Maximizing God's goodness by being thankful for the good in our lives and others allows us to turn minutes into memories and discover opportunities and blessings others don't see.
  - f. Maximizing God's goodness delivers us from the joy stealers that take over in a "minimizer's" heart, such as envy, comparison, complaining, pride, and entitlement.

4. Which of the following ways of maximize God's goodness especially stands out to you?
- a. Take time to meditate on, learn about, and praise God for His grace.
  - b. Choose to look with a different perspective at your circumstances.
  - c. Articulate specifically and continuously, through praise and declaration, ways God has shown His goodness to you.
  - d. Celebrate memories of grace, like the communion on a regular basis.
  - e. Make it a point to respond to God's grace by showing generosity to others out of gratitude to God.
  - f. Reflect on and personally thank people who've made a difference in your life.
5. Where is an area you've been struggling that God might want you to magnify the goodness of God?