

Small Group Guide

Week of March 24, 2024

Speaker: Mark Delaney

What's Your Price?



Icebreaker



- If you could time travel, where would you want to go and what's the first thing you'd want to do there?
- If you could swap lives with any fictional character for a day, who would you choose and why?



Discussion



- Many of us treasure things that we think make life worth living. What are some of the things that you tend to treasure or place a high value on in your life?
- Have you ever encountered a situation where you felt the pressure to compromise your values or step on others in pursuit of something you desired? How did you handle it?
- There is a difference between proximity to Jesus and actively pursuing a relationship with Him. Can you share an example from your life where you experienced this distinction?
- The woman who poured out the expensive perfume on Jesus is described as an act of extravagant worship. What does worship mean to you, and how do you express it in your life?
- The sermon challenges us to consider, "What would you be willing to give up a year's worth of in pursuit of Jesus?" Take a moment to reflect on this question and share your thoughts with the group.
- Have you ever felt offended or uncomfortable when the topic of generosity or giving is discussed in a church setting? If so, why do you think that is?



Thought for the Group



Today's focus is on making the shift from greed to generosity. Greed isn't just about having a lot - it's a heart issue about constantly wanting more.

The story of Judas betraying Jesus for 30 pieces of silver shows us just how far greed can take someone. Despite being one of the 12 disciples who walked closely with Jesus for years, Judas still viewed Him merely as a good teacher, not as Lord of his life. Judas called Jesus "Rabbi" but the other disciples addressed Him as "Lord." This reveals Judas' heart was never fully surrendered. Just like Judas, sometimes we can treat Jesus as more of a part-time consultant than the Lord of our lives. We're content with the benefits but don't want to go all-in and completely submit to His leadership.

In contrast, the woman who poured out the enormously expensive jar of perfume to worship Jesus provides a picture of true generosity and abandon. Despite criticism, she gave everything of great cost because Jesus was worthy.

What would we be willing to give up for Jesus? Our time, talents, resources? If the cost of our worship ever feels too high, perhaps we need to reevaluate how much we truly value Jesus. Greed will always leave us empty, but true life is found in giving ourselves fully to Jesus as Lord. Are we ready to burn the bridge of greed and step into a life of radical generosity?



Next Steps



- Pick one area to practice radical generosity. Whether it's your time, talents, resources, or something else of value, choose one specific area where you can stretch yourself to give extravagantly as an act of worship unto the Lord.
- Take an honest inventory of the areas where greed or selfish desires have crept in and taken priority over your relationship with Jesus. Repent of these and make a plan to realign your priorities.