



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“OUPOURING: Investment, Intimidation, & Intimacy”

Ps. James Lowe – 9/21/2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- Have you ever taken on a high-risk enterprise? What motivated you to take that step?
- What are you most thankful for?
- If you were at dinner with old friends commenting on what each one had been doing over the last year, what comments do you think Jesus would make in response to the way you have spent your life over the last year?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

Mark 14:3-9

And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. There were some who said to themselves indignantly, “Why was the ointment wasted like that? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they scolded her. But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. 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.”

1. Investment

A revelation of what God has done for us will always lead to an investment on our part. The woman understood that Jesus would be pouring his life out for hers. That led her to pour out her perfume. Somehow, she understood that she wouldn't have that opportunity again. Nobody else had that opportunity later (when the women tried to anoint him later, they couldn't because he had already risen). A true understanding of what God has done for you, will lead you to pour out what you have on him. You invest in the unique opportunities that God sets before you when they come, knowing that your actions have eternal impact.

2. Intimidation.

Whenever we do something that requires extravagant faith, there will always be somebody that will try to speak fear into you by listing all of the “reasons” why you shouldn’t be doing that. A clear revelation of what the Word says is what will give you the faith to press through in your expression of faith, love, and gratitude.

3. Intimacy

Nothing we do for Christ is a waste. Two days after being anointed, when Jesus was beaten and crucified, Jesus could still smell the fragrance of the perfume that the woman had poured out on him. Even as he was being tortured, the remembrance of the act of love that was poured on him remained present. Hebrews says that, “Jesus with the joy set before him endured the cross...” The fragrance of love probably helped Jesus endure the hatred that was directed towards him. Because this woman didn’t waste her unique opportunity, Jesus said wherever the Gospel is preached her actions would be remembered. When we act and give out of an understanding of what Jesus has done and is doing, it creates a greater intimacy with him.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- What changes do you need to make to be able to give more to Christ?
- What do you want to be remembered for? Do your actions and budget reflect that goal?
- How can you better express your gratitude to the Lord for what he has done for you?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray for a greater revelation of what God has done for you.
- Pray for wisdom to embrace the unique opportunities that God sets before you to express God’s Kingdom priorities.
- Pray that God will lead you to a new level of gratitude and generosity.