

The extravagant
generosity of Jesus
Part 1

Overwhelmed

2/12/2012

In this series, so far, we have discovered 3 very exciting personality traits of our Savior:

He is playful
He is humble
He is honest

And today we will begin a series on his extravagant generosity.

If we will look carefully around us, we can see his generosity in:

1. Nature

“...all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas, LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”
Psalm 8:8-9

Consider the ocean

John Eldredge writes:

“Each wave builds as it approaches, ascending, taking shape, deep greens below sweeping upward into translucent aquamarine. A sculpture in motion, curling forth like shavings from a jade carving. The sheer elegance is enough to take my breath away. The wave I’m fixed upon crashes to the sand like a work of art toppling from its pedestal, but before I can feel the loss another is rushing to take its place, sweeping upward, forward, utterly mesmerizing

beauty. They come another, then another and another, in an unending procession.”

“All things were made through him, and with him, nothing has been made that has not been made.” John 1:3

What are the waves telling us about Jesus?

Maybe that he is Majestic, powerful, wild, dangerous but most of all it tells me of his generosity.

Eldredge, “But also playful as it laps at your feet, swirling round your toes, pulling the sand away from beneath you as Jesus ever so gently pulls the rug from under us. I look down. Scattered at my feet lie a thousand shells, delicate, intricate, the work of a jeweler. An artist with very small tools and exceptional eyesight. If all this is the work of an artist’s hand, what does it tell us about the artist? Creation is epic and intimate. He is epic and intimate.

- Everywhere around us, there seems to be an obsession with generosity, beauty and attention to detail.
2. Meeting needs of those he loves

“On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, They have no more wine. Woman, why do you involve me? Jesus replied. My hour has not yet come.” John 2:1-4

Wait a minute. What is the tone of Jesus voice? Aloof, rude, annoyed? It makes all the difference. His response could not have been any of these. So what does Mary know that we don’t?

Mary knows that...

- A. Jesus adores her

My goodness, while dying on the cross he arranges for her care.
Fast forward to Jesus hanging on the cross.

“Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.” John 19:25-27

Back to the wedding at Cana

B. Jesus will do anything for her

I know this because of Mary’s response, she simply turns to the servants and says,

“Do whatever he tells you” V 5

Whose wedding is this? Is it a family member? A close friend of the family? Why was Jesus and his family invited? Why did Jesus bring all of the disciples with him? We don’t know, but we do know that Mary was very concerned about what was happening at the reception.

- Just like Mary, Jesus is concerned about everything that concerns you.

Just like the wedding reception, how many times, I have invited Jesus into something? A concern, problem, struggle? And you know what? Each time he gets involved. Not grudgingly or because he has to. He gets involved beyond our imagination. Generously, Extravagantly.

C. Jesus is extravagantly generous

“Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet. They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now. What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.” John 2:6-11

Each jar held 30 gallons.

30 gallons x 6 jars = 180 gallons

180 gallons = 682 liters

682 liters = 908 bottles of wine.

The scripture makes a point of tell us exactly how many urns there were, how much they held and even pushes the point that they were filled to the brim. Apparently, the QUANTITY Jesus produced was important to the story.

Not only was the quantity important but so was the quality of his provision. “you have saved the best till now.”

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” Eph 1:3

- Jesus reveals his glory to us by his generosity.
“What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory.”

What is true of Mary is true of you as well.
Jesus adores you

Jesus will do anything for you
Jesus is extravagantly generous toward you.