



Dear Precious Friend,

March-April, 2016

Extravagant Love

Then Mary took a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, anointed the feet of Yeshua and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment. *John 12:3*

Mary came to Yeshua with the most costly ointment she had. She had saved this precious oil and having spent much time at His feet waiting upon Him and listening to His word, she knew exactly what to do with her oil and when to do it. She knew that she was to anoint Him for the day of His burial.

Martha was serving the meal. She knew how to care for Yeshua's physical hunger. Lazarus was at the table being served with Yeshua. He now knew that Yeshua was the Resurrection and the Life. But Mary was at the Master's feet, serving Him in His deepest need, showing Him the highest honor.

Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him said, why wasn't this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not because he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief and had the bag, and took from what was put in there. *John 12:6*

Judas knew the cost of the ointment. Mary knew the value of Yeshua. By pouring out her most precious oil, she demonstrated His infinite worth for all the world to see. Beloved, true worshipers empty themselves, even as He emptied Himself and took upon Himself the form of a manservant and then poured out His blood unto death for our sake. *Philippians 2:5-7*

Beware of covetousness, beloved! Covetousness destroys the heart of worship. Covetous means to hold more (gk: *πλεονεξία*/pleonexias). It is a word-picture of the rich man who tore down his barns to build larger ones in order to hold more of his fruits.

And I will say to my soul, Soul you have much goods laid up for many years: take your ease, eat, drink and be merry. But God said to him, You fool, this night your soul will be required of you: then whose shall those things be which you have provided? So is he that lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. *Luke 12:15-21*

Covetous people build for themselves edifices to hold more. Worshipers empty themselves of all they have. How often do we focus on the value of our gifts or on our blessings or on our own ministry more than on Him, but Mary focused on His value alone. She spilled out her most costly treasure without considering her own loss. Mary had sat at His feet and had now become like her Master who would soon pour out every drop of His most precious blood for the salvation of the world.

Like the rich man, Judas seemed concerned about being thrifty and holding onto more, but it was a pretense for his own greed, a cloak for the self-centered love which caused him to betray the One who loved Him. Judas would never have sold the precious ointment to give it to the poor, for he desired it for himself. But Mary had kept her ointment for His burial to pour it out on her King extravagantly.

When Yeshua gave Judas the sop, Satan entered into him, but he had already been following the devil's ways. He had already become like the one he was listening to in his greedy heart. Finally, Judas sold Yeshua for 30 pieces of silver. Covetousness leads to betrayal.

Beloved, do we really care about the poor? Are we thieves, stealing God's gifts, blessings and provision to use it on ourselves? Are we like Judas, counting every penny, or are we like Mary, pouring out on Him all that He has given us in extravagant love?

Don't lose your heart of worship by trying to hold more! True worship prevents the heart from becoming covetous and self-centered. Let go and pour out what God has given you and He will replenish you over and over again!

Good News:

I am in Florida visiting my 90-year old mom, feeding her, polishing her nails and praying for her and with her. She is more receptive to Yeshua than ever before. Yesterday she said she felt like she was in church. The Holy Spirit was upon her and that's how she described the feeling of His presence. Glory to God! My dear cousin, Lou, came from Texas to visit me and my mom; and we had a lovely time making up for a 40 year separation! Lou opened his heart to receive Yeshua and came to a lively Messianic congregation here in Ft. Lauderdale. In Yeshua's name, I prayed for Lou's torn knee cartilage and since then, he has had no pain! Glory to God!

Last year, I prayed for my spiritual son who is a chef because he was in severe pain from knee trouble. He had to have cortisone shots and was told he needed two knee replacements and might have to quit working as a chef. A few weeks ago, I spoke with Nat and he told me that after we prayed last year for the healing of his two knees, he was totally healed! No more shots! No knee replacements and he is happily continuing to work in the profession he loves! God is so awesome and so full of compassion!

Todd is a young Jewish man who works in Walmarts. I shared the gospel and he willingly read the scriptures aloud about Yeshua and received prayer, smiling and nodding when I said Yeshua is his Messiah. I have seen him again and he will come to the Messianic congregation in Florida soon.

I ministered at the home meeting of my dear friends the Merciers on fresh oil and truly the oil of the Holy Spirit came down upon us all like the dew!

In May, I will be coordinating a team from Gateways International, Cyprus (a Messianic discipleship community) for a time of evangelism and service to the Syrian refugees in Greece. There is such great need as the fields are ripe unto harvest, but the workers are few. Pray that our time at the refugee camp will bring many salvations and much fruit that remains.

Our next Jewish-Greek unity conference is being planned for October, 2016. There is also a strong possibility to host a seminar at the University of Thessaloniki on the place of Israel in the End Times and the identity of Israel and the Church. I would so appreciate your prayers.

Thank you for pouring out your prayers and support on the ministry the Lord has given me to the Jew first and also to the Greek. My website, www.romans116jg.org, the Jewish Greek Bridge, has my bio and many of my articles and a gallery of photos from ministry events. It is still under construction, but has much on it already to edify and bless you. May the Lord lavish His boundless love upon you and may you pour it all out in extravagant worship to Him alone!

In His Love,

Greta