

April 6 Sermon
John 12:1-8

“It’s Crazy Divine”

When it comes to love, how much is too much? Where should we draw the lines?

That’s one of those hard questions—kind of like the one Peter asked Jesus: “If a member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive?”

Trying to sound generous, Peter offers a holy-sounding number: “As many as seven times?” Seven—the number of perfections. The day God rested. Surely we can rest too after forgiving someone seven times.

But Jesus replied, “Not seven times, but seventy-seven times.” (Matt. 18:22)

You can almost hear the crowd whispering, “That’s crazy.” And maybe Jesus smiled and said, “Yes. It is. It’s crazy divine.”

It’s just as crazy as the other things Jesus said:

If someone hits you—turn the other cheek.

If a Roman soldier forces you to carry his gear for a mile—go two.

These actions are so unexpected, so beyond the norm, that they open space for the divine to break through.

The kingdom is among us, Jesus said. Sometimes it shows up when we act in those same crazy, bewildering, extravagant ways.

John’s Gospel gives us one of those moments.

Remember the wedding at Cana? Jesus turns water—ordinary water—into 600 bottles of wine. And not just any wine. The best.

In today’s terms, that wine would have cost over \$5.5 million. That’s crazy divine extravagance. And it’s a glimpse of what God’s kingdom is like.

In today’s passage, we see another moment of that extravagant love. Mary—so grateful for her brother Lazarus, alive again—does something bold.

She pours out perfume, worth a year’s wages, on Jesus’ feet. The house fills with fragrance. It’s an act of love so over-the-top, so intimate, so generous, it shocks everyone.

When it comes to love, how much is enough? With God, there is no measure. God's love is limitless.

So how do we respond to that kind of love? Like Mary, we do what we can.

We bring our whole selves. We give from the heart. We respond in love with hope.

Sometimes that love will look so radical, so out of the ordinary, that others might think we've gone a little crazy.

Think about Paul. Before Damascus, he was self-righteous, proud, full of contempt for others.

But after meeting Jesus, everything changed. His religious achievements? Worthless.

Knowing Christ changed him entirely. Priceless.

It's that same crazy divine love. Like Mary, Paul simply did what he could. And so can we.

We may not have perfume worth a year's salary, or religious credentials like Paul.

But each of us can do what we can.

This is what Lent is about: clearing out all that blocks our sense of God's extravagant love. Mary shows us the way.

And maybe the question for us today is this:

What would it look like to love with that same kind of extravagance?

It may not be a jar of perfume or a dramatic life conversion.

But maybe it's choosing to forgive again—when you're tired of forgiving.

Maybe it's showing up for someone when no one else will.

Maybe it's offering your time, your money, your heart—without expecting anything in return.

Love like that doesn't always make sense. It might look wasteful, foolish, impractical.

But love like that—crazy divine love—is what makes the kingdom real.

It's what makes the invisible, visible.

It's what makes heaven break into earth.

When it comes to love—how much is too much?

With God, that question doesn't even apply.

Amen.