



Extravagantly Loving
Expressing our Father's
love through worship &
community.

1 Corinthians 13

Argyle Spring 2020 Preaching
Series: New Vision and Values

Our Values

Totally Jesus

Knowing Him and making Him known. [Phil. 2:9-11]

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[1 Cor. 13:13]

Consciously Dependent

We rely on the Bible and the Holy Spirit. [John 15:5]

Unceasingly Prayerful

Because prayer is transformational. [1 Thess. 5:17]

Culturally Relevant

A church which connects with today's people. [Acts 17:22-23]



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**“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.” 1 Cor. 13:13**



LUKE 15:11—32

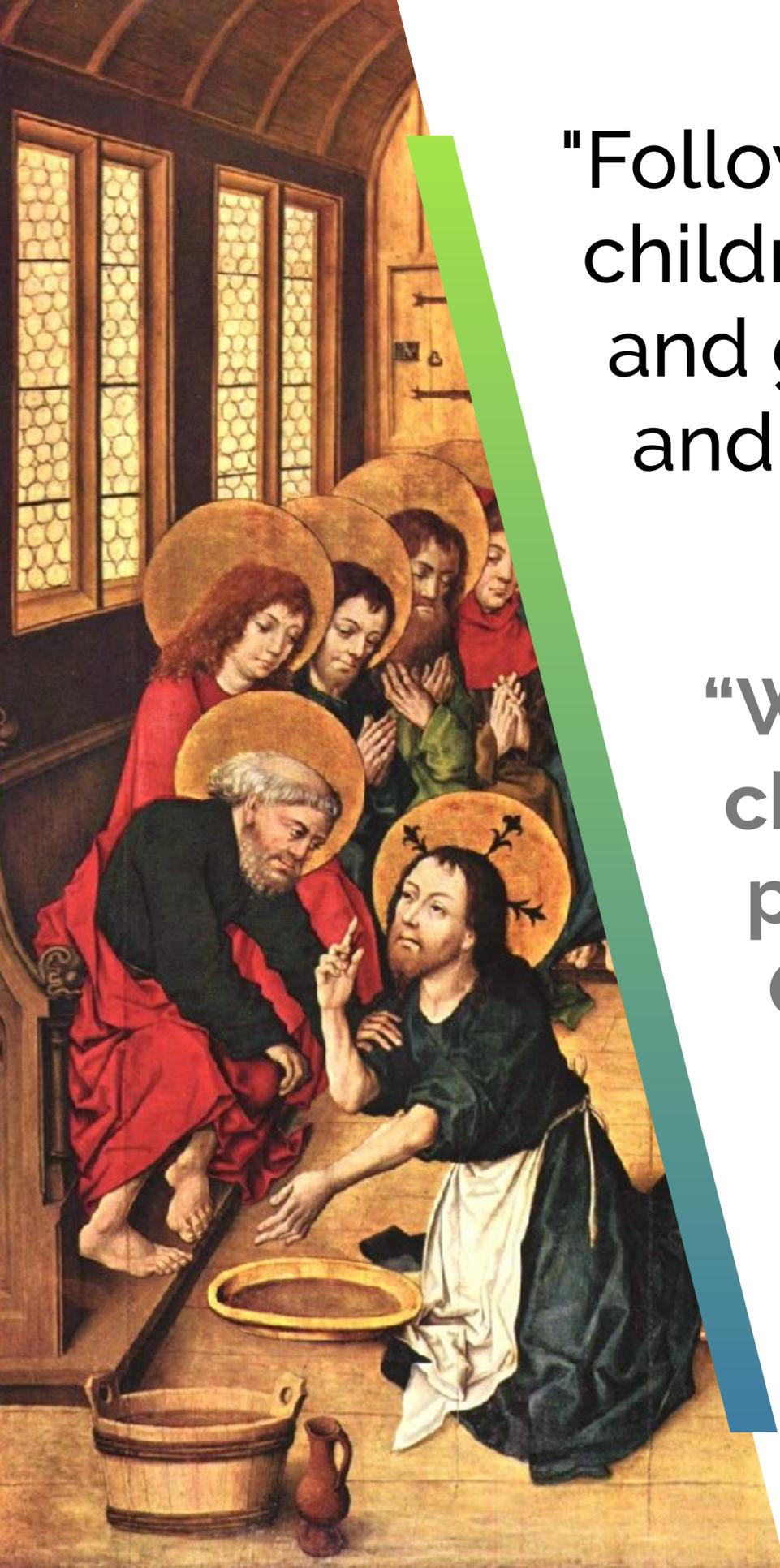
Parable of prodigal son

- Son demands inheritance - effectively wishing his Father dead!
- Son wastes inheritance with prodigal living
- But Father not only forgives
- ...He welcomes back
- ...He reinstates
- ...He throws a party!!



The word ‘prodigal’ does not mean ‘wayward’ but ‘recklessly spendthrift’. It means to spend until you have nothing left. This term is therefore as appropriate for describing the father in the story as well as the younger son. The father’s welcome to the repentant son was literally reckless, because he refused to ‘reckon’ or count his sin against him or demand repayment. This response offended the elder son and most likely the local community.

Timothy Keller - The Prodigal God



"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." **Ephesians 5:1-2**

"Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behaviour from their parents.

Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that."

The Message Translation of Eph. 5:1-2

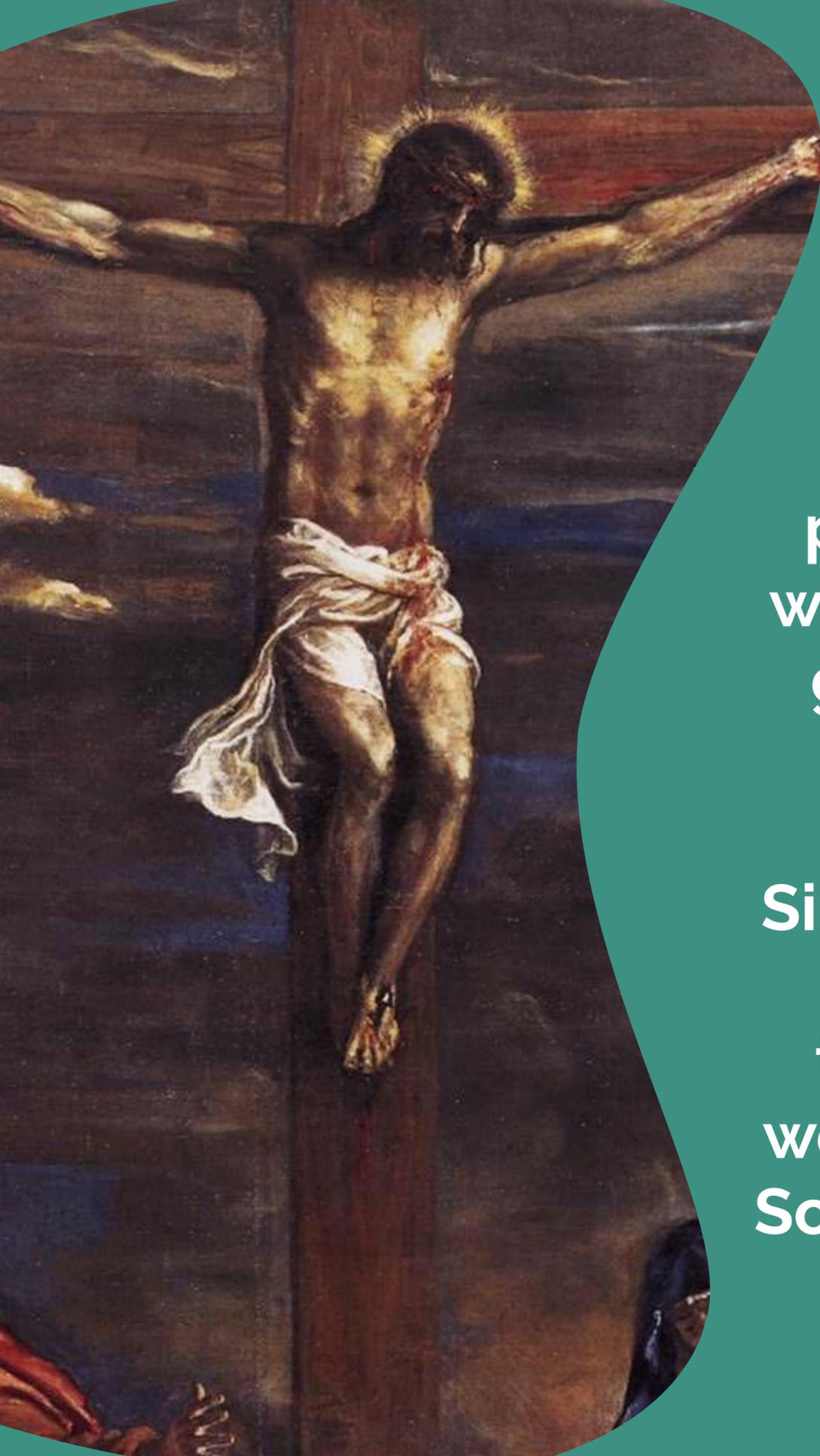
The incident of the very expensive perfume

While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, 'Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor.' And they rebuked her harshly.

'Leave her alone,' said Jesus. 'Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.' [Mark 14:3–6](#)





Romans 5:6-10

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life.



"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!"

1 John 3:1

**But I tell you, love your enemies and pray
for those who persecute you.** Matthew 5:44

Extravagant love = Grace





But to think what might have happened last night!



DISCUSS

- **How did the bishop show grace to Jean Valjean?**
- **What would you have done if you were the bishop?**
- **What did the bishop do next? (if you know the story!)**



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What about us?

- Forgive our enemies
- Going our of our way to help people
- Noticing the overlooked and vulnerable
- Work/school/college/university:
Praying blessing on people who are nasty to us; refusing to allow our hearts to hate our colleagues/fellow students
- Reaching out to a family member we've neglected/
mistreated/fallen out with
- Treating Jesus like woman with the expensive perfume did
- Showing love in these times of Coronavirus?



A loving response in these times of Covid-19?

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is

.....

I live locally at

.....

My phone number is

.....

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping | <input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call | <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies |

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.

#ViralKindness



Extravagant Love

THE IMPERATIVE

“A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

John 13:34

THE IMPOSSIBILITY

We can't love as God requires. It's too hard. But we have the Holy Spirit to transform and enable us!

