

# HALLELUJAH

## B O R N T O P R A I S E

Sunday 25th November 2018

Allan Demond

Eph 1:6-8

Hallelujah We Are Blessed

*<sup>6</sup> So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. <sup>7</sup> He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. <sup>8</sup> He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding.*

Ephesians 1:6-8 New Living Translation (NLT)

Allan's message this week challenged us to consider how we might be able to 'Upsize' our experience of God by embracing gratitude and practicing generosity.

Drawing from three significant bible stories, Allan challenged us to: live with the gratitude of our sins being forgiven and to draw on this gratitude as a way to be generous.

**Take a moment to pray as a group, that God might reveal more of Himself, and His truth as you gather together.**

### **Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman**

**Read Luke 7:36 -50**

- **What would you say is the most significant part of this story? Why?**

Allan suggested that the sinful woman is the character that most experiences God's love and forgiveness, and demonstrated gratitude.

- **How does this challenge your own experience of forgiveness and faith?**

In the passage, the woman weeps on Jesus' feet, and pours perfume on him. It is an extravagant and unrestrained gratitude.

- **Can you think of an example where you have seen gratitude to God practiced so lavishly.**
- **What might it look like for you/us to honour God in this way in our current day?**



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Allan's challenge to us was that the sinful woman experienced something of God's love that the 'old men in the club' enjoying the meal together would never know. A fuller measure of God's forgiveness and love.

### The Collection for Christians in Jerusalem

#### Read 2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

As Paul writes to the church in Corinth, he outlines some principles of generosity.

- **What are some of the principles that Paul outlines in the passage?**

Write a list as a group

- **How does your own experience of giving generously affirm these principles?**
- **Where do you find it difficult to put these principles into practice?**

### Women who followed Jesus

#### Read Luke 8:1-3

Luke identifies three women who underwrote his ministry. Susanna, Joanna and Mary Magdalene were among many (v3) who supported Jesus and his disciples.

- **Why does the passage say these women supported Jesus' ministry?**

These women experienced God's forgiveness and healing and as a result, chose to participate in this ministry. Allan's encouragement to all of us was to be generous where we are, and in places where God is calling us. Generous with our finance, generous with our time, generous with our love and care.

**Pray that God might help you trust him in this way.**