

The Exchange

13 December 2014



1. What's the best gift you've ever received?
2. What makes a gift valuable - is it the amount of money spent, the effort of selecting, what it represents or how well it reflects your knowledge of the intended recipient?
3. You often hear people say about gifts: "It's the thought that counts." Do you agree with this? How does your relationship with the giver of the gift influence your perception of the gift and how much you value it?
4. How do we measure how much we give to someone? Do we give more to those who we like more? To those who gave us more?
5. "A gift is often more reflective of the giver than the recipient." Do you agree with this statement? What might our choice of gift say about us or the person we are giving it to?
6. Do you think Christmas would be more meaningful without the obligation of gift-giving? Or is the tradition of giving gifts what makes Christmas special?
7. If Christmas is the season of giving, what are some of the ways we might give to others in the next few weeks?
8. How was Jesus' life, ministry and death on Earth "extravagant"?
9. Christ gave the ultimate gift - His life - and through it, the promise of eternal life for each of us. Is that a gift we can ever hope to reciprocate? How is Jesus' giving different from the way we give?
10. Jesus told a parable about two debtors and concluded by saying, "Whoever has been forgiven little loves little" (Luke 7:47). Do you agree with this statement? Is our love for God proportional to how much we've been forgiven?
11. Mary was criticised for "wasting" the money spent on the perfume. What or who does society generally consider "wasteful" or not worth its investment? What about the church? Are there ministries or events that the church considers not the best use of resources?