

Online Easter 2020 Holy Week of Devotionals

Monday, April 6th

Jesus Anointed at Bethany – John 12:1-11

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint^[a] of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.^[b]" ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you,^[c] but you will not always have me."

⁹ Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹ for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him.

Reflection - Mary Pours Out Costly Perfume in worship

Many events took place during the last few days before Jesus died on Calvary. He had left the area some time before, according to John chapter 11, and had stayed in a rural area. Now, it was time for Jesus to take His last journey to Jerusalem. He stopped at Bethany and was invited to a feast in His honor.

Note the contrast of responses to the people at this feast.

1. Mary expressed her love to Jesus by an extravagant act of worship. She poured out this expensive oil on Jesus to truly honor Him and express her worship. Pouring out this oil represented her life broken and poured out for Jesus.
2. Then there is Judas. Judas' response reveals his own heart. He has his own agenda for following Jesus. He was the keeper of the money bag and he used what was given to help himself and further his agenda. It is worth noting that his agenda does not line up with the agenda of Jesus. His agenda never did.
3. And then, there is the response of the Lord. Jesus says, "*Leave her alone!*" Jesus accepts her extravagant act of worship, validates her and then calls everyone who will, to realize as Mary does, "who" is in their midst!

Many times, the call of God to worship Him and serve His causes will be misunderstood. As Jesus nears His destination on this Monday before the crucifixion many would abandon him, even His disciples. But Mary expresses her love in a way that Jesus knew what she was saying.

Jesus notes that "*It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial.*"

Mary committed to following Jesus in full devotion no matter the cost. She knew and understood His death was coming. She knew and comprehended the wonderous cross of our Savior, that it demands my soul, my life, my all... Join together as we survey the wonderous cross this Monday of Holy week.

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts

PRAYER

Lord God, as we reflect on your love for us today as expressed in dying on the cross to set us free from our sin and shame, we find we must offer you an extravagant gift of worship. We confess that many times we approach you in worship distracted and maybe even come with our own agendas. Could it be that we might even sit in judgement of those who do come offering a costly gift of love to you and the sacrifice of praise?

Today, Monday of Holy Week, we see your coming to us with "*love so amazing, so divine*". Please help us come to you this week and offer to you an appropriate act of worship... "*my soul, my life my all.*" In Jesus Name. Amen.