

Holy Monday Year A 'at home' Meditation: April 6th, 2020

Is 42:1-9

Ps 36:5-11

John 12:1-11 Anointing His Feet

Six days before Passover, Jesus entered Bethany where Lazarus, so recently raised from the dead, was living. Lazarus and his sisters invited Jesus to dinner at their home. Martha served. Lazarus was one of those sitting at the table with them. Mary came in with a jar of very expensive aromatic oils, anointed and massaged Jesus' feet, and then wiped them with her hair. The fragrance of the oils filled the house.

4-6 Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples, even then getting ready to betray him, said, "Why wasn't this oil sold and the money given to the poor? It would have easily brought three hundred silver pieces." He said this not because he cared two cents about the poor but because he was a thief. He was in charge of their common funds, but also embezzled them.

7-8 Jesus said, "Let her alone. She's anticipating and honouring the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you. You don't always have me."

9-11 Word got out among the Jews that he was back in town. The people came to take a look, not only at Jesus but also at Lazarus, who had been raised from the dead. So the high priests plotted to kill Lazarus because so many of the Jews were going over and believing in Jesus on account of him.



Self-anointing

- Mary anointed Jesus with expensive perfume, an act of generous and adoring love.
- To remember and honour this, take some perfumed oil or moisturiser and rub it onto your wrist.
- Savour the aroma.
- Remember Mary's act of loving sacrifice.
- Reflect on what you can give to Jesus.
- You may like to write, draw or doodle your response.
- Give it to God in prayer.

Preparation for the Prayer 'If God Does Not'

- *You may like to play some music as a background to this.*
- *As you read this silently or out loud, leave plenty of space between each verse.*
- *Warning: It is a bit heavy, so this may elicit in you some strong emotional responses.*

Prayer - If God Does Not

If God does not weep,
then there is no love deep enough
to touch the pain.

Pause

If God does not get close,
then there is no love real enough
to meet our brokenness.

Pause

If God does not touch,
then there is no love earthy enough
to value our humanness.

Pause

If God does not need compassion,
then there is no love tender enough
to endure our pain.

Pause

If God does not walk on,
then there is no love restless enough
to witness the truth.

Pause

If God is not anointed,
then there is no love ready enough
to die.

Pause

If God does not know pain,
then there is no love broken enough
to comfort our world.

Pause

If God does not know death,
then there is no love potent enough
to bring resurrection.

Pause

Oh God, please help us to stay with you
as you face pain and death on the way to the cross.
Help us not to fall away from you.
Help us to be with you, as you are always with us. Amen.

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