



# Daily Reflections

**April 15, 2019**

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## Scripture

### **John 12: 1-11**

Six days before Passover Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. They gave a dinner for him there, and Martha served, while Lazarus was one of those reclining at table with him.

Mary took a liter of costly perfumed oil made from genuine aromatic nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and dried them with her hair; the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

Then Judas the Iscariot, one of his disciples, and the one who would betray him, said, "Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor?"

He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and held the money bag and used to steal the contributions.

So Jesus said, "Leave her alone.

Let her keep this for the day of my burial.

You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The large crowd of the Jews found out that he was there and came, not only because of him, but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.

And the chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too,

because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

You've heard the old saying, "No good deed goes unpunished"; that saying could serve, on one hand, as the theme for today's powerful Gospel reading. Mary performs a loving act of kindness for her Lord before He suffers and dies and the thief Judas criticizes her. And behind the scenes the Jewish authorities are plotting. However, no matter how ugly the details may be, good will triumph.

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## **Food for your Journey**

In *The Seeds of Heaven*, Barbara Brown Taylor writes: "To be where God is — to follow Jesus — means going beyond the limits of our own comfort and safety. It means receiving our lives as gifts instead of guarding them as our own possessions. It means sharing the life we have been given instead of bottling it for our own consumption. It means giving up the notion that we can build dams to contain the bright streams of our lives and letting them go instead, letting them swell their banks and spill their wealth until they carry us down to where they run, full and growing fuller, into the wide and glittering sea."

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, In a world that is filled with gossip, slander and innuendo, help me to speak with love and kindness even though I may not receive the same in return. Amen