

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023

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### Something Beautiful

There is a beautiful, moving account of Jesus being anointed by a woman. It made such an impression on the early Christians that it appears in all four gospels, albeit with some differences. She anoints Jesus' feet with some very expensive perfume (costing about 10 months wages), and she is told off for wasting money, as it could have been spent on the poor. Jesus defends her, and responds with, you can always help the poor, but you won't always have me. Jesus' explanation is that the woman is preparing him for his burial which will happen in a few days time. It is her gift to him, a loving, tender gesture, evocative, full of love. It points to his upcoming death but also beyond that, to when some women would go to anoint his body for one final time for his burial, and don't get the chance to do it...In a few days time, Jesus, perhaps with this fresh on His mind, washes his disciples feet, and tells them to follow his example and wash each others feet, as a way of loving and serving each other.

In John's account, the woman is named as Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus. I like the way John describes how the fragrance of the perfume filled the house. It reminds me also how the bible describes our prayers are like incense, which rise before God. He loves to hear from us. And He loves to receive from us.

Is there something beautiful in your life, which you would like to say a prayer of thanks for?

If there was one gift you could give to Jesus, what would it be?

And, what would you like to say to him?

*Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but b*

*because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. Jesus said, "Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."*

*- John 12:1-8*