

Entering the Passion of Jesus – Lent Four Time for Self-Reflection Take Home Page

“While he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, ‘Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.’ And they scolded her. But Jesus said, ‘Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me.’” — Mark 14:3-7 (with references to Mark 14:3-9, Matthew 26:6-13, John 12:1-8)

Take some time to look at this artwork and place yourself “in the picture” by choosing any character in the painting. Contemplate the following questions:



What is your chosen character noticing in this moment? What do they hear?

What do they see? What do they smell?

What can you imagine they are thinking? How might they be feeling?

Why are they there? What can you imagine about what they were doing just before this moment, or what they might have done afterwards in response to being involved in this moment?

What would you have thought, felt, and done if you could paint yourself into the scene?

Spend some time praying this prayer from our worship:

It is so hard not to be afraid.
Sometimes my fear makes me less compassionate,
and more judgmental.
I think I can ward off getting hurt by holding back,
Unwilling to risk putting my elf out there for the sake of love.
Forgive me, O God.
Encourage me to extravagant acts of love,
especially when I am frightened.
You enter the story of my life over and over.
May I have the courage to enter fully into the story
of your kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

And remember this assurance from our worship:

Know this: There is no limit on love.
Love doesn't run out,
and you can start giving more of it anytime.
You are forgiven and freed,
encouraged and loved
by the Creator who wants you to live fully.
Amen.

My thoughts and prayers: