

April 3, 2022

Questions for Reflection

John 12:1–8 draws our attention to three people: Mary, Judas, and Jesus. It is easy enough to identify Mary as “the good disciple” and Judas as “the bad disciple” not only in this story but also in the larger story of Jesus’ life and death. We can (and do) make this judgment: Mary is accepted and affirmed, while Judas is rejected. But is this the judgment that the other person in the story would make? As one commentator puts it, “. . . if Jesus came to save the lost, surely there is no one in the gospel story who is more lost than the one who betrays Jesus. . . . If the Good Shepherd can and does go to any length to save a lost sheep, is Judas beyond the saving grasp of the Good Shepherd?”† This is not a question with an easy answer. As this story ushers you into Holy Week, consider how the cross, the grace of Christ, speaks to this story and to your own life story, which like most life stories may not be a simple “either/or” example of faithfulness, but a “both/and” mix of faithfulness and unfaithfulness.

Household Prayer: Morning

Merciful God, as I begin this day,
place in me a spirit of generosity
so that I may freely share love, joy, and encouragement
with those I encounter.
Keep me from quick judgments
so that I leave room for your grace in my life and in the lives of others.
Make me your faithful disciple in my words and in my actions,
as well as in the thoughts of my heart; in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

All through the day, Lord Jesus, you have been present.
As I settle into the routines of home and evening,
I long to be at home in my relationship with you.
Help me to put aside the cares of the day and the worries of tomorrow
in order to fully enjoy the peace of your presence now.
I pray that your peace will also be with those I know
who have special need of your care tonight,
and I pray for those who lie down this night without the safety
of home or bed,
without enough food or resources.
Bring your light into the surrounding darkness
so that all of us may sleep in the security of your love. Amen.