

Gospel Reflections:

JOHN 12

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JOHN 12:1-11

- 1: Then JESUS six days before The Passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom He raised from the dead.
- 2: There they made Him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with Him.
- 3: Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of JESUS, and wiped His feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.
- 4: Then saith one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray Him,
- 5: Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?
- 6: This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.
- 7: Then said JESUS, Let her alone: against the day of My burying hath she kept this.
- 8: For the poor always ye have with you; but Me ye have not always.
- 9: Much people of the Jews therefore knew that He was there: and they came not for JESUS' sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom He had raised from the dead.
- 10: But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death;
- 11: Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on JESUS.

Mary the sinner woman, a picture of all who have confessed and repented of their sins and been forgiven and healed by our Lord JESUS CHRIST, anoints CHRIST with her precious oil and her tears. She is thankful and lives again. She was dead but now is alive. She was in the grip of sin and death, but now in JESUS she is reborn into new life. Just as Lazarus, and all who come to The Cross and there receive The Saviour's forgiveness! As Paul says in II CORINTHIANS 5:14-15, "For the love of CHRIST constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again!"

JOHN 12:12-19

- 12: On the next day much people that were come to The Feast, when they heard that JESUS was coming to Jerusalem,
- 13: Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet Him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is The King of Israel that cometh in The Name of The Lord.
- 14: And JESUS, when He had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written,
- 15: Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt.
- 16: These things understood not His disciples at the first: but when JESUS was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things unto Him.
- 17: The people therefore that was with Him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record.
- 18: For this cause the people also met Him, for that they heard that He had done this

miracle.

19: The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after Him.

Here the people hail JESUS as The Messiah, repeating the messianic Words of PSALM 118:26, “Blessed be he that cometh in The Name of The LORD...!”

בָּרֻךְ הוּא בְּשֵׁם יְהוָה

BARUCH HABA’ BESHEM ‘ADONAI! And now we see the purpose most clearly of CHRIST having raise Lazarus from the grave, a miracle that proclaims His messiahship as The Son of GOD, come to save His people from sin, suffering and death, that we might live again in Him in newness of life – both now and forever!

And also we see His entry into Jerusalem during The Passover, for He as The Messiah sent by The LORD has come to be The Passover Lamb for us all, Whose blood He applies to the doorposts and lintels of our souls when we become His in Faith, that the angel of death might pass over the abode of our souls; that He might lead us out of bondage into His everlasting Kingdom of The Promised Land; that we might be marked by His righteousness; that we might dwell in His Likeness as in His Image before His holy Presence – now and always! Therefore Saint John The Baptist, when he saw JESUS coming to him to be baptized in The River Jordan, called out in JOHN 1:29, “...Behold The Lamb of GOD, Which taketh away the sin of the world!”

JOHN 12:20-32

20: And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at The Feast:

21: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired Him, saying, Sir, we would see JESUS.

22: Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell JESUS.

23: And JESUS answered them, saying, The hour is come, that Te Son of Mn should be glorified.

24: Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

25: He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

26: If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I AM, there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour.

27: Now is My soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

28: Father, glorify Thy Name. Then came there a voice from Heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

29: The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to Him.

30: JESUS answered and said, This voice came not because of Me, but for your sakes.

31: Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

32: And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.

Here Gentile GOD-fearers come seeking The Messiah. They too are hungry for the salvation of The LORD. For when they heard that JESUS was at the earthly Jerusalem for The Passover, they came seeking entry into The Heavenly Jerusalem through Him. So we have already read His Words in JOHN 6:44, “No man can come to Me, except The Father which hath sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up at The Last Day.” And in JOHN 14:6, “...I AM The Way, The Truth, and The Life: no man cometh unto The Father, but by Me” The Kingdom of GOD comes, and JESUS CHRIST is The Living Eternal Door through which all men may enter, both Jew and Gentile, into His glorious Pastures of Eternal Peace!

And also we see shades of The Words recorded by Moses, in that the emblem of our sin must be lifted up and examined before GOD; that we must look upon the ugliness of it; that we must be convicted then of our offenses towards The LORD; that we must repent and turn from our wickedness; that only then might we live again in Him! So we read in NUMBERS 21:8-9, “And The LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the ser[em]t of brass, he lived.”

The devil the serpent has held all men and all creation in his bondage of rebellion and death. But The Cross breaks his power and casts the master of this world back upon his knees before The holy I AM of the universe! So we recall also The Words of CHRIST in JOHN 3:14-18, “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must The Son of Man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For GOD so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For GOD sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.!”

JOHN 12:33-41

33: This He said, signifying what death He should die.

34: The people answered Him, We have heard out of The Law that CHRIST abideth for ever: and how sayest Thou, The Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is This Son of Man?

35: Then JESUS said unto them, Yet a little while is The Light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

36: While ye have Light, believe in The Light, that ye may be the children of Light. These things spake JESUS, and departed, and did hide Himself from them.

37: But though He had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on Him:

38: That the saying of... [Isaiah] the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of The Lord been revealed?

39: Therefore they could not believe, because that... [Isaiah] said again,

40: He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with

their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.
41: These things said... [Isaiah] when he saw His Glory, and spake of Him.

Here these men could not understand that The Messiah of GOD came to suffer and die for the sins of men, that we might live again in Him. Scripture says that The CHRIST lives eternally, and they could not reconcile The Suffering Servant of ISAIAH 53 with what JESUS was revealing about why He came in to the world. Such a Messiah did not fit their aspirations for The Deliverer to come and set physical Israel free from the bondage of worldly oppression, as under the Roman occupation. They could not see that The Messiah of GOD came to set Israel and all men free from the bondage of spiritual oppression, as under the devil.

Therefore their eyes were blind, though these leaders of GOD's people sat in the seat of Moses, and they could not see! And their hears were deaf, though they presumed to dictate to GOD what The Messiah should do, and they could not hear! So the prophet foretold this in ISAIAH 42:18-20, "Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see. Who is blind, but My servant [Israel]? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant? Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not."

That The CHRIST should have to be lifted up upon a pole unto death, that He might become sin for us before The Judgement Seat of GOD, that we might live by His Passion, death and resurrection – all this was anathema to these men. What confusion then they must have been overcome with when they read such messianic Texts as ISAIAH 53:1-4, "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of The LORD revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of GOD, and afflicted."

JOHN 12:42-50

42: Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue:

43: For they loved the praise of men more than The Praise of GOD.

44: JESUS cried and said, He that believeth on Me, believeth not on Me, but on Him that sent Me.

45: And he that seeth Me seeth Him that sent Me.

46: I am come a Light into the world, that whosoever believeth on Me should not abide in darkness.

47: And if any man hear My Words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

48: He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My Words, hath one that judgeth him: The Word that I have spoken, The Same shall judge Him in The Last Day.

49: For I have not spoken of Myself; but The Father which sent Me, He gave Me a Commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.

50: And I know that His Commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as The Father said unto Me, so I speak.

O what a fearful thing, to turn away from The Light of the world – The Messiah JESUS – and then on The Last Day when The Father Above judges our souls, to answer to Him and say, “Father, I loved the praises of men more than The Praises of GOD. Therefore I hid my Faith in Your Anointed One. Therefore I turned my face from The Life Everlasting Incarnate. Therefore to please men I spit upon The blessed Cross of Your dear Son, our Lord JESUS The CHRIST! But have mercy upon my sinful soul, O Eternal One, for I was righteous in my own eyes. I received the praises of men, who declared me to be holy as the devil himself declares himself to be holy. Is this not enough, O Eternal Father?’

What shall The Almighty then say to us? He shall declare exactly what The Saviour JESUS CHRIST warns us of in LUKE 13:26-30, “Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in Thy Presence, and Thou hast taught in our streets. But He shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in The Kingdom of GOD, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in The Kingdom of GOD. And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last!”

A great preacher once gave a sermon, how fearful it is for an unrepentant sinner to fall into the hands of an angry GOD! What foolishness we as men are so prone to bury ourselves in, that we should think we may go through life scorning The Law of GOD and spurning His Mercy – refusing to turn from our sins and walking pridefully in them all the days of our lives – and then come and stand before The Throne of JEHOVAH and proclaim our own righteousness to Him! GOD forbid! What does Saint Paul counsel us in ROMANS 10:9? Simply this, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth The Lord JESUS, and shalt believe in thine heart that GOD hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved!” May it ever be so with us. In The Name of GOD The Father, Son and Holy Ghost. AMEN.