

IN THE WORD – March 11, 2018
THE FORTY OF WATCHING: The Last 40 Days of Jesus' Life

INTRODUCTION

BETHANY BEYOND THE JORDAN

- Recalls where Jesus was baptized and his public ministry began
- John the Baptist's disciples still in this area
- Here, Jesus receives word that Lazarus is sick

BETHANY – the Home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus

- Significance of Bethany (House of Misery or House of Affliction)
 - Martha, Mary and Lazarus – who were they and why did Jesus love them so?
 - Martha & Mary (orphans? Widows? Ascetics?)
 - Reconciling Simon the Leper, Simon the Pharisee, Martha's house
 - Hospice or Almshouse
 - Dead Sea Scroll mentions a Hospice in Bethany
 - Provides insight for the Good Samaritan & Discussion of the poor
 - Reconciling the Marys
 - Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead
 - Affirms role/ place of women once more
 - Jesus' reaction to the grief caused by death
 - "He was deeply moved" – an unusual word in the Greek that means a loud, inarticulate noise, the snorting of a horse, sometimes associated with anger or being deeply disturbed
 - Jesus being deeply troubled repeated in Jn. 12:27 & 13:21. This is 1st time.
 - More fully entering into human condition - *"He made himself responsible, and gathered up into His own personality all the misery resulting from sin, represented in a dead man and broken-hearted people round about Him. This was voluntary identification with the sorrow that issues from sin, and was the outcome of the righteous wrath against the sin that caused such sorrow. It is a most remarkable unveiling of the heart of Jesus."* (George Campbell Morgan)
 - "Come and See" (cf. John 1:39 to John 11:34)
 - Reveals his authority over death
 - Promises Martha that she will see the glory of God. (Everyone saw Lazarus come out of the tomb, but only those with eyes of faith saw the glory of God)
 - Reaction of belief and unbelief (Luke 16 parable – "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'")
 - John's Gospel indicates this initiates the Jews determining to kill Jesus. Restoring Lazarus to life led to the inevitability of laying down his life.
 - Lazarus Saturday – Eastern Orthodox tradition
 - The act of raising Lazarus from the dead is considered a promise to all who believe in Jesus of resurrection
- (over >)

EPHRAIM – Edge of wilderness 12 miles north of Jerusalem

- Close of public ministry: “Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews.” (John 11:54)
- Isolated enough to be undisturbed by those seeking to find him
- Setting not favorable for teaching excursions
 - He spent this time with his disciples (Taught parables from Q here?)
 - Alone with God
- Significance of Ephraim
 - Gen. 41:52 “And the name of the second he called Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.”
 - Jesus could probably see the Valley of Achor from Ephraim
 - Ephraim was synonymous with the entire Northern Kingdom of Israel (just as Judah was for the Southern Kingdom)

THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM (Jericho, Trans-Jordan)

- Joins pilgrims making their way to Jerusalem for the Passover
- Trans-Jordan (Perea)
 - Blesses the children
 - Conversation with rich young man
- Outside Jericho heals 10 lepers (only the Samaritan returns to give thanks)

BETHANY (again)

- Anointing of Jesus
 - Judas Iscariot rebukes Mary (cf. John 13:2 “the devil had put it into the heart of Judas to betray him)
 - Jesus defends Mary saying that her act will be remembered wherever the Gospel is preached. (Mt. 26:13, Mk. 14:9; Luke’s version may be a different incident but Matthew, Mark and John are likely the same incident even though John records as 6 days before the Passover and Mt. and Mk. Record as 2 days before...)
 - Done to prepare Jesus for burial – *He* is thinking about His burial
 - The poor (recall possibility of this being an almshouse)
 - Deuteronomy 15: 7-11
- Palm Sunday – Triumphal entry in Jerusalem (the colt was found either in Bethany or Bethphage)
- Significance of the Greeks who want to see Jesus (John 12:20-23) “*Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.”*

JERUSALEM - Holy Week and the Passion of the Christ...