

Monday, March 29

Readings: Isaiah 42:1-9  
 Psalm 36:5-11  
 Hebrews 9:11-15  
 John 12:1-11

Prayer: *Lord God, you provide for us with every blessing so that we may be a blessing to others. Though we have much, we desire more. You give yourself for us so that we will have life in you. Help us to open our hearts, minds and hands to you and in so doing share your gifts with all those in their need. In Jesus name. Amen.*

Focal Verse: “Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.” John 12:3

Reflection:

The *main* reason for going to church is not to get our needs met; the main reason, the most important reason, for going to church is to worship God. When people do this – when they come to church to worship God – something wonderful happens. They invariably discover that they are much more likely to get something out of the experience than if they had come for any other reason.

When we give cheerfully, as an act of worship, the very act of giving moves us to lose interest in ourselves and to devote ourselves to God. We may care about how the money that we give is used but that isn’t the *reason* we give it. We may appreciate having our gifts acknowledged, but that isn’t *why* we give them. In some mysterious way, such giving – motivated only by our love for God – ends up meeting our *own* deepest spiritual needs and is intensely satisfying.<sup>72</sup>

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

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### Share abundantly

as we have received. The purpose of these gifts is for the good of the community of God. We give to build up the body of Christ. We use and share our gifts for the benefit of all.

“... and God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”  
 2 Corinthians 8:3

<sup>72</sup> Powell, Mark Allan, Giving to God: The Bible’s Good News about Living a Generous Life, © 2006, Errdmans Publishing, p. 20-22.