

Bermudian Church of the Brethren

WEDNESDAY'S WORD – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week
April 17 in the year of our Lord 2019 - #784 Wednesday of Holy Week

Worthless...

It was one of those innocent moments. I was standing in Rutter's waiting on a sandwich. A couple young men were standing behind me also waiting on their orders. I wasn't trying to eavesdrop. They were just talking right there beside me. The conversation went like this:

First Fellow – *“What do you have planned for Easter?”*

Second Fellow – *“Not much really, I think we are going to Grandma's for lunch, that's what we usually do. Not much else.”*

First – *“Yeah, I'm not doing much either. I hate Easter.”*

Second – *“Yeah, it's a worthless holiday – you don't get anything out of it. No day off work, no presents, worthless holiday!”*

I was so shocked, stunned ... that I didn't say anything. Should I have interrupted them right there in Rutter's? Made a scene? Tell them that Easter changes everything? Tell them how much the Lord loves them? I didn't. My introvert side won. I'm sorry Lord for not standing up for you right there in that moment. But I slinked back to my truck with a heavy heart and a million thoughts in my mind. And ever since I've wished I had been brave enough to say something ... anything! I wish I had done something for Jesus.

It was Wednesday of the week we call Holy Week. The last couple days had been high stress for Jesus. Teaching in the Temple in confrontation with the Temple leaders. Strong words! Intense emotions! Today Jesus relaxes in the home of His dear friends, Mary, Martha & Lazarus. Maybe Mary saw the sadness in Jesus demeanor. Maybe she was still so filled with awe & love for how Jesus had recently raised her brother from the dead. We're not sure what motivated Mary, but she takes what is likely the most expensive thing she owns, an alabaster box of very expensive perfume and begins to pour the perfume over Jesus' head to the shock of everyone else present. The strong odor of the perfume fills the room. As the perfume runs down over Jesus, dripping from His beard, some falls to His feet. Mary bows before Him and begins to wipe His feet with her hair. Something for Jesus.

Judas grumbles! ***“Why this waste?”*** (Matthew 26:8 NASB) Jesus firmly stops the grumbling. His words stop everyone ... His words hang in the air!

“She has done a wonderful thing for me. ... She has anointed my body for its burial, ahead of time.” Mark 14:6, 8 NTE

Something for Jesus!

Oh dear ones, I pray that this Holy Week is not just like every other week for you. I know work and family responsibilities go on as usual. But it is Holy! It must be Holy! And whether you feel

as though you “*get anything out of it*” when it comes to Easter Sunday, may in large part be determined by what you “*put into*” Holy Week.

Take some time. Make some time. Time to pray a little extra. Time to spend a little extra time in the Passion story in the Bible. Time to remember the cost of your salvation. Time to reflect on the incredible love of God for you. Time for extra moments of Worship. Join us for Maundy Thursday worship tomorrow night. Attend the Community Passion Play at Harmony Grove Church (or another similar event). Take time to understand about Easter ... as Christian minister/author Rick Warren says so perfectly in the first sentence of the first chapter of his landmark book, *The Purpose Driven Life*... “*It’s not about you.*” Our Easter celebration is all about honoring the Lord, celebrating, all that He has done for us! Declaring His WORTH! Something for Jesus!!!

Let’s break open our “alabaster box” today. Visit a lonely shut-in. Buy a gift for a cherished friend. Call someone who would love to hear your voice. Tell someone how much they mean to you. Make supper for a busy family. Do something for peace. Send a message of encouragement to someone who needs it. Invite someone to Easter Worship. Read the Easter story to a child. Plan a special offering for a ministry that touches your heart. Do something for Jesus!

Hoping to see you on Resurrection (Easter) Sunday ... or sending Easter blessings to those of you reading this from a distance ... as we declare the incredible WORTH of Jesus!

Pastor Larry <><