

Surrender to God's Will Monday of Holy Week March 21, 2016 8:15 AM

Is 42:1-7; **Jn 12:1-11** (We all need to continue to examine ourselves as to whether we are really following Jesus and trying to relate to him and trying to allow him to guide and direct us, or have we substituted another agenda?)

Sometimes in the gospels you will read what is obviously **the same story but with different details**. John says Mary is the one that anointed Jesus' feet, but in another story it's a strange woman. Well apparently there was **someone that anointed Jesus' feet and there was a complaint**, not necessarily Judas; here it is Judas, but in the other story it was one of the Pharisees. But the story remains a valuable story anyway because it is a story of **a kindness done to Jesus**, more than likely really happened just that way, and at the same time there's **an objection that this kindness cost too much money**.

Now today's author gives a little dig. It says that Judas really didn't care about the poor, but he was a thief. Whether that's true or not is not important. **What's important is the focus is on money and not on people**. We know that Judas betrayed Jesus. We don't know why, but we can surmise that he had other plans, other ways of looking at life and mission. Some believe that Judas betrayed Jesus in order to, as it were, force the hand of God to protect his Messiah, thinking of God in those terms, which of course turned out to be incorrect.

But there are many good ways in which a person could try to make a contribution in life; good ways are not necessarily God's ways. This is really about bringing our mind and heart into the presence of the Lord and letting the Lord teach us. This is about being personally **disposed to the actual direction and guidance of God, as opposed to doing good things**. It would be very good to give to the poor three hundred days' wages. That would be admirable, but is it really God's will? Is it really responding to the actual situation where we are being invited into something? Sometimes even acts of goodness are actually delaying mechanisms. Sometimes acts of justice or charity are really beside the point. **What God is really inviting us to is real surrender to him and to his guidance and real obedience**, which sometimes cost nothing, except our will. So the Church puts this lesson in Holy Week because **we all need to continue to examine ourselves as to whether we are really following Jesus and trying to relate to him and trying to allow him to guide and direct us, or have we substituted another agenda?**