

Walking with Jesus Christ  
Galilee / Gethsemane / Gabbatha / Golgotha

Take My Life and Let It Be  
Frances R. Havergal (1874)

Take my silver and my gold,  
Not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use  
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour  
At Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee.

---

Dear Alex [this is a copy of a letter written to one of the children we sponsor - [KidsAlive.org](http://KidsAlive.org)]

We are in a very strange time where many, many people cover their faces with masks. It is a very sad time for many people worldwide.

For our visit tonight, let's speak together on the subject of seeing the faces of people. Our theme shall be: Being SENSITIVE to Christ and His Kingdom Plans.

**John 12:3-7** Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial.

---

There are some written or spoken phrases that have such beautiful majesty about them, that when we receive them into our minds, we are driven to respectful silence as we contemplate the incredible depth of their meaning.

Yesterday, such an event of respectful silence happened as I read the following quote from G. Campbell Morgan:

“. . . Mary at Bethany preparing Jesus for His burial, what the keen intuition the heart of woman seeing the shadows on His face more clearly than others saw, desiring to do something that would tell Him she saw and understood, breaking all the bounds of prudence as she poured the spikenard on feet and head, preparing Him, as He said, for His burial.

“And Judas, going to the priest, saying, ‘What will you give me?’ plotting for Jesus’ death.

---

The phrase “seeing the shadows on His face more clearly than others saw” is such a profound truth, and, is an attribute to be fervently desired and prayed for!!

Oh, how we Christians long to see the face of our Savior for, at that very moment in heaven, we will be like Him. [1] All pain and every stain of sin will be forever banished because it will be replaced with perfect loving affection and adoration.

But, this beautiful passage in John 12 and Mark 14 [2] reminds us that we live in a fallen world, and, even though we see Christ's face but dimly, we still have the ability to look for ways to honor Him and be a valuable component in His plans of redeeming lost souls until His return [3].

Part of that redemption work is the compassion Christians have for the suffering of others. In fact, the Holy Spirit declares that pure and undefiled religion is composed of Compassion for the physical pain (which is always, always reflected in the face of the sufferer) and, an equal admonition for an Earnestness to keep oneself unspotted from the world. [4]

Why would Compassion and Purity [unspotted from the world] be connected in the same verse?

I am convinced this is so because the world, in its core beliefs and worldview, is governed by selfishness. We must battle our fallen self-centeredness every moment of every day. The one sure way to receive help in this battle is by being acutely conscious of the pains and suffering of others.

That is why we are to be so conscious of the importance of looking into the faces of everyone we possibly can so we can be Sensitive to any lines of pain on their faces.

Pain cannot be hidden! It must seek an outward expression.

So it was with Jesus, who was facing the greatest pain the universe would ever know.

Sweet sensitive Mary in our passage tonight, looks into the face of Jesus, seeing the 'shadows of pain' and, and we can imagine something like this as her heart cried out to her mind, 'Oh, what can I do? Jesus is facing the death by crucifixion which He plainly declared to us. It must be so for God's work to be completed, but, oh, what can I do to comfort Him now?'

Surely, Mary's heart pictured the coming death and her mind reviews the burial process. How easy it is for our imagination to think of her heart and mind merging into one single determined act of worship saying something like, 'I will pour out all my love to my Savior. I will take all my most valuable possessions and pour that rich fragrance on the head and feet of Jesus. Perhaps He will be comforted and encouraged for the door of pain which He must pass through.'

Mary takes her future earthly security (precious ointment), breaks the alabaster flask [2] and pours on the head and feet of Jesus. All in the home were blessed as it filled the entire place.

This act of worship and SENSITIVE understanding pleased Jesus as He also clearly knows His feet will soon be nailed to that cross.

One can easily imagine traces of that precious ointment mingled with the blood which flowed from His pierced feet, the floggings and lacerations from the crown of thorns upon His head.

Yes, all of Jesus, purchased the Cross experience. "It was for me, Yes, all for me! The love of God, so great so free." . . . but, it cost God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit everything! [5] But, that supreme sacrifice, to be effectual for us, likewise costs us, like Mary, everything we hold dear.

It does not take much effort to imagine the “lines of sorrow” on the face of Jesus soften a little bit as He observed Mary’s act of devotion and projecting that image, with perfect omniscience, to see the face of millions of other “Marys + Johns” as they pour out their love for Him in loving obedience and compassion on other lost souls.

The picture would be incomplete if we did not pause and deeply consider another face in the group that evening. This face belonged to Judas, the betrayer of Jesus, who was Jesus’ arch antagonist rejector of His perfect love which was continually held out to him.

On the face of Judas we would see a disapproving dark scowl. It does not hold the dark lines of sorrow like the face of Jesus, but it was frozen in dark lines of self-centered disgust for both Jesus and Mary.

We are told that Judas was the treasurer for the group and was full of greed. He had already determined to betray Jesus and get a few pieces of silver for his diabolical treachery. [6]

As Judas was declaring that the cost of the ointment was years worth of wages [7] and that it was being wasted on anointing Jesus whom he had come to despise, surely Judas’ own face could only have held the dark hatred of scorn.

What was Judas’ heart SENSITIVE to? Sadly, to his eternal loss, he was sensitive to the things of time, which were soon to pass away. For him, his lust-filled heart for money, would burn like fire as he drank from that cup. Not many hours later, Judas, after his betrayal of Jesus, ended his own life [8] as the bitterness of his choice to follow the devil ate away all hope and assigned him forever to everlasting suffering.

Oh, my . . . what a contrast there was that day between the dark lines of sorrow on the Savior’s face and the dark scowl lines on the face of His betrayer.

Because this picture has been brought so vividly to mind today, we should be so careful to not lose any of its meaning and significance. We would do well to pause and look at ourselves in the mirror, asking, “What do the lines on my face represent?”

Is there a softness that comes with the thought of our Savior’s life, death and love for us? Is there a “softness of compassion” for others? Yes, it will all show on our faces!

Or, do we see a hardened selfishness which shouts out, “I want my way, my will, and I want it now! And, whatever it costs I will run after the things of this world which will soon be beyond grasp?”

One young boy wrote me this, “I get along well with my classmates, until one of them takes my pencil.”

We should think about that honest confession for our own lives. Think of the expression on that young man’s face. He is at rest and in peaceful agreement with his neighbor, until his neighbor touches something which he considers his very own. Now, his face turns to a dark scowl and he reacts in anger and desires to hurt his neighbor.

The Christian, though, does not have to give into that neighbor-rejecting war-declaration. The Holy Spirit tells us that one filled with the fruit of the Spirit acts just the opposite. [9]

The Holy Spirit also teaches us to be willing to suffer wrong [10], even as our own Savior suffered, so that we might bring peace to angry, bitter people.

Yes, it always comes back to the face. Will our faces beam with the joy and adoration of loving the Savior and our neighbor as ourselves [11].

Or, will our faces be darkened and hardened in being consumed by greed, hatred and lack of compassion?

---

Which will it be for us today, tomorrow and all eternity? Yes, it is true we all will have darkened lines of sorrow on our faces, from time to time, because of the pain we all experience in this life.

Let's consider together this question: What will we be SENSITIVE to?

Will we be SENSITIVE like Mary to the sorrow lines in the faces of others around us and consider it a privilege using this world's goods to compassionately help others in pain.

Will we even consider suffering for Christ's sake a joy? [12] [13]

Most importantly, these truths are so beautiful, so rich beyond imagination, they compel us, without fail, to give them away to others. We can not give them away without first possessing them. We then can become an Ambassador for Christ. [14] We then possess the greatest of all privileges of encouraging an eternal soul to reach out his hand to accept Christ's offer to join his sinful hand with the perfectly righteous hand of God the Father.

As we saw tonight, very likely Jesus' hands and body still held traces of the beautiful aroma from Mary's act of worship and her gift to her Savior. Jesus' blood, which came from His hands, head, feet and side due to that awful cross of death and separation in death from His Father was shed not just for Mary or for you and me only, but, also, for the whole world.

**Ephesians 1:7-8** In Jesus we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.

So, let's Tell Somebody Today! . . . this the greatest of all love stories. Jesus Christ died to save sinners, so they would not have to eternally die!

Jesus is coming again soon to make everything wrong, right!

And, it is nearly inconceivable but it is so true, we get to be fully committed with Christ in the sweetest part of the plan of God to redeem to Himself a family forever.

We are so privileged to be able to ask precious people, who possess eternal souls, if they would be interested in hearing how this love of God and His salvation can become a reality for them. With their agreement, we now can tell them exactly what it means to be saved:

**1 Timothy 2:3-6** For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all.

**Salvation is:** The surrendering all of one's life . . . all plans, possessions, people [relationships], pride, power, potential, purposes . . . yes, everything to Jesus Christ . . . and persevere, never turning back!!

Why don't you and I stop and think about our close friends and relatives. What do you think might happen, if you copied these wonderful encouraging truths and gave them to others to also read with you.

I found over many years that the people with whom I have spoken to about the the love of Christ for them, actually have helped me to love Christ more. I wonder what would happen if you and a few friends read these truths and made a covenant together to urge each other to keep "our eyes on Christ and off the the world?"

Because God is no debtor and always blesses the honest-hearted, humble person who seeks after Him, I am certain you and your friends will find yourselves being drawn to a closer relationship with your Lord and Savior.

Now, that is the sweetest of all investments you can ever make on earth!

We love you very much and are very glad for the privilege to pray for you.

Please remember to pray for us, also, and "pray that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you" [2 Thessalonians 3:1].

We join with you in being overwhelmed by the  
Magnificent / Marvelous / Matchless

Love of Jesus Christ for us and all people -

Jon + Philis Hileman

---

#### Today's Bible References:

[1] 1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

[2] Mark 14:3 And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head.

[3] Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

[4] James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

[5] Was It For Me? John M. Whyte (b 8 Jun 1850, d 17 Mar 1927)

Was it for me, for me alone,  
The Savior left His glorious throne,  
The dazzling splendors of the sky?

Was it for me He came to die?

Was it for me He wept and prayed,  
My load of sin before Him laid  
That night within Gethsemane?  
Was it for me, that agony?

Was it for me He bowed His head  
Upon the cross, and freely shed  
His precious blood—that crimson tide?  
Was it for me the Savior died?

[6] Mark 14:21 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born.”

[7] Mark 14:4-5 But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, “Why was this fragrant oil wasted? For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they criticized her sharply.

[8] Acts 1:18-19 (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

[9] Galatians 5:22,23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

[10] 1 Corinthians 6:7-9 Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated? No, you yourselves do wrong and cheat, and you do these things to your brethren! Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

[11] Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ “

[12] 1 Peter 4:13,14 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

[13] Acts 15:41 So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

[14] 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.