



## Would I Do What Mary Did?

We see a Mary at the birth of Jesus, a Mary at the death of Jesus, and Mary at various occasions in his life.

Gabriel comes to Mary who is betrothed to Joseph and tells her that she will have a son born to her before the marriage. A lightning must have crossed through her heart. A son before marriage – she knew very well the consequences, she was not that naïve. Hush, hush talks, a mock trial before the High priest, ridicule, humiliation, and finally cruel death by stoning by the so-called guardians of the law. We cannot even understand the emotions welling up in her and the piercing pain in her heart. How would she preserve the dignity of her family? What would happen to her parents, her siblings? No heart-warming answers. Still she chose to believe the words of God's angel. She surrendered her will and reason to God's will and said, "May your word to me be fulfilled."

Would I do what Mary did? Would I choose to be an outcast, a laughing stock of people around me? Would I accept the humiliation, reproach and possibly death?

Mary opened a jar of pure nard and poured it on the feet of Jesus. Something that would cost a year's worth of wages. Wasted (?) it on someone who may not be here for long. And she wiped his feet with her hair. A woman's hair is her pride and crown and she was willing to surrender that before Jesus. She was even ready to be insulted and humiliated because "It was accounted an immodest thing for women to dishevel and unloose their hair publicly" (a commentary on the NT by John Lightfoot). She did not consider it too costly or substitute the precious oil she had probably kept for years with something else which also could be valuable – she gave what was best and dearest to her.

Would I give my year's wages, the most expensive thing I have which is very dear to me? Would I reason with my intellect and substitute the valuable? Would I worship with my whole heart and strength or offer sacrifices of reluctant praises and forced thanksgiving?

Mary, watching all the cruel treatment meted out to Jesus by the cruel Roman soldiers with a broken heart. She couldn't sleep well that Friday and Saturday nights. Even though Jesus was dead she prepared something for him, to treat his dead body; she was not expecting to see him alive. Mary (and other women) who is courageous enough to go to tomb even in very adverse circumstances – it is still dark, there could be danger in the area and there are guards by the tomb who could attack and abuse them. Mary was not willing to leave even when she knew Jesus was not in the tomb. She was pouring out her heart through her sobs and weeping at the prospect of losing her rabbi forever. She was even willing to carry his body if she could find it. Imagine, a frail woman thinks she is capable of carrying

the dead body of a man; she was so filled with love for him.

Would I be prepared and prepare something for the Lord when I seek him on Sunday morning? Would I be willing to venture out into a dangerous territory for Jesus even when it is still dark, literally and otherwise? Is my love to Jesus such that I would linger in the dangerous place a little longer with an expectation that I would see him? Would I be willing to carry a heavy load, his body- the stench, the shame, the ridicule, the accusations and isolation?

Would I do what Mary did?

**"I am the LORD who heals you"**

Please pray for:

**Pr. Mathew Samuel, Bro. Babu Thannickal,  
Bro. Sam Ebenezer, Sist. Shiny Chacko, Sam Mathew, Ammini  
George, Mariamma Johny (Kunjumol), Usha Danielkutty  
Kiran (Dr. Jolly Mathew's granddaughter),  
Nirmala (Friend of Snehalatha Nair), Bro. Jose Ponnolil  
& all who are sick among us.**

## Please pray for these Countries

	Country	Popula- tion (in millions)	Chris- tians	Evan- gelicals	President	Prime Minister
Sun	Czech Republic	10.4	27.2%	0.7%	Milos Zeman	Bohuslav Sobotka
Mon	Denmark	5.5	83.3%	3.6%	Margrethe II (Queen)	Helle Thorning-Schmidt
Tue	Djibouti	0.86	1.8%	0.1%	Ismail Omar Guelleh	Abdoulkader Kamil Mohamed
Wed	Dominica	0.7	92.1%	15.8%	Charles Savarin	Roosevelt Skerrit
Thu	Dominican Republic	10.6	93.8%	9.4%	Danilo Medina Sanchez	
Fri	East Timor	1.2	91.0%	2.0%	Taur Matan Ruak	
Sat	Ecuador	16	93.9%	7.9%	Rafael Correa Delgado	