

## En route to Easter: Awaken to His Love

Claude Lainey – March 29, 2026

### Mary's Love Offering

**Romans 5:8** (NIV)

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

### Who we are and everything we do flows from His love for us!

### Responding to His love is at the heart of who we are and what we do!

**1 John 4:19** (NLT)

We love each other because he loved us first.

**Galatians 2:20** (NIV)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**1 John 3:16** (NLT)

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.

**Isaiah 53:6-7** (NLT)

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.

### Seeing His love, Receiving His love, Remembering His love → leads us to respond to His love.

**Matthew 26:6-13** (NIV)

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, <sup>7</sup> a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. <sup>8</sup> When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. <sup>9</sup> "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor." <sup>10</sup> Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>11</sup> The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup> When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. <sup>13</sup> I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

### En route to Easter we find different responses from different people

- 1. Religious leaders wanted to kill Jesus: they were filled with jealousy, pride and took offence at the words of Jesus!**
- 2. Judas was in Jesus' circle, but his focus was completely different—his heart was set on money and himself.**

**John 12:6** (NIV)

He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

### 3. The disciples responded with logic and common sense

#### Matthew 26:8-9

When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked.<sup>9</sup> “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.”

- **This kind of love doesn’t always make sense!**

#### Philippians 2:5–8 (NIV)

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!

### 4. Mary got it — she was awakened to His love!

#### Romans 12:1 (NIV)

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

- **When Mary was awakened to His love...**
  - **She didn’t hold back!**
  - **She didn’t calculate!**
  - **It wasn’t casual...**
  - **It wasn’t convenient...**

#### John 12:3 (NIV)

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

- **Her worship didn’t stay private—it filled the room, it touched others.**

#### Matthew 26:13

I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

*My prayer is that we would be awakened to His love, that we would receive it and love Him in return.*

- **There is no real relationship with God without devotion—because love is the very heart of that relationship.**
- **If I say I have a relationship with my wife, it means something! It means exclusivity, connection, generosity, surrender, and affection.**
- **To be awakened to His love gives birth to devotion!**