



## 2021 Walk to Bethlehem



### Week 3 Meditation

### Preparing the Feet

*“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.”*

*John 12:3*

The last time I walked a beach with the sand swirling around my toes, I thought about the Walk to Bethlehem. When Jesus was about to be born, Joseph walked through the desert sand to Bethlehem with his very pregnant wife riding on a donkey. As an adult, Jesus was constantly on the move. Except for an occasional boat ride, he walked from one dusty town to the next. What a relief it must have been for Jesus to have his tired feet anointed by Mary.

In the Detroit area, there is a rotating homeless shelter that moves from church to church throughout the year. A church hosts the guests for a week and then they are on their way to the next church. In addition to a warm meal, warm shelter and hot showers, many of the churches provide services such as free haircuts, homework help and counseling. When the shelter came to our church one year, one of the women suggested that we offer to wash the guests' feet. This was an unusual service to offer and one that was out of our comfort zone. Most of us have no problem serving in the kitchen, but washing feet? Jesus gave us an example by washing the disciples' feet. Why not wash the feet of the homeless? Like Jesus, except for an occasional bus ride, the homeless guests walk to their destinations. Their feet must ache from ill-fitting shoes, dirty socks and sweaty feet.

As we unwrapped the feet of our guests, I thought of Mary anointing Jesus' feet and I thought of Mother Teresa's statement from a 1974 interview, "I see God in every human being. When I wash the lepers' wounds, I feel I am nursing the Lord himself. Is it not a beautiful experience?" These simple acts of mercy and serving are the acts that bring Kingdom results. This is when God is glorified and we grow. The homeless guests were surprised by the foot washing, but those who washed their feet were blessed by the privilege of honoring them in a world where they most often find rejection.

**Watch This Video!** Copy the address below and paste it into your browser or place cursor over link and click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xx9KuZU1EjY>

*Ponder these questions this week and please send your thoughts (and any pictures) to:*

[stpaulwtb@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulwtb@gmail.com)

1. *Have you ever had your feet washed by someone?*
2. *How did you feel?*
3. *Have you ever washed someone's feet?*
4. *How did you feel?*
5. *How can I bless someone today with my serving acts and attitude?*