

Sometimes God uses our individual acts of service to be much more when joined together with what God is already doing.

Isaiah 43:16–21 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> This is what the Lord says— he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, <sup>17</sup> who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: <sup>18</sup> “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. <sup>19</sup> See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. <sup>20</sup> The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, <sup>21</sup> the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

John 12:1–8 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, <sup>5</sup> “Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.” <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> “Leave her alone,” Jesus replied. “It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.”

## The Ministry of Serving

Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8



our collective acts of service are not always \_\_\_\_\_

ministry:

- \_\_\_\_\_ action given on behalf of  
a \_\_\_\_\_

a ministry of service requires \_\_\_\_\_

to what \_\_\_\_\_

## The Ministry of Serving

*Isaiah 43:16-21; John 12:1-8*



Understanding the Bible:

What is the problem being expressed in this Bible passage?

How does God show up in this Bible Passage?

Why did Jesus commend the actions of Mary?

My favorite song today:

Things I will pray for this week:

### Today's Bible Passage: John 12:1-8

(Can you find the highlighted words?)

E G F B A C F I L L E D  
 X B E U M A R T H A I R  
 P E E A P M A M O N E Y  
 E A T T L E G L I V E D  
 N N S Y H W R I C A D H  
 S J N S B A A F V V I E  
 I F L A O E N Y U E N H  
 V B A H R V C Y S M N O  
 E B F E M D E A D N E N  
 S P H L A Z A R U S R O  
 A P O O R J E S U S C R  
 E W V I Y O P O U R E D  
 P I N T X G H E G N F L

Six days before the **Passover**, **Jesus** came to **Bethany**, where **Lazarus** lived, whom **Jesus** had raised from the **dead**. **Here** a **dinner** was given in **Jesus'** honor. **Martha** served, while **Lazarus** was among those reclining at

the table with him. 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**. But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this **perfume** sold and the **money** given to the **poor**? It was worth a year's wages." 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. "Leave her alone," **Jesus** replied. "It was intended that she should save this **perfume** for the day of my burial. You will **always** have the **poor** among you, but you will not **always** have me."