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Atonement

Fast & Prayer

April 3-9, 2023

Day 1

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. "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." ~ John 12:3,7-8

Father God,

Today we pour our Worship on you like oil. Let us not be distracted by naysayers or critics but let us focus on you. We do not take for granted your presence and your sacrifice. Instead, we bow at your feet giving you our offering of love and thanksgiving. In Jesus name,

Amen

Day 2

Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." ~ Matthew 26:38-41

Father God,
Even in your sorrow you kept us in mind and for that we thank you.
Forgive us Father for not praying as we should. You said that Your grace is sufficient, and Your power is perfect in our weakness, so we draw from your strength in prayer. In Jesus name,

Amen

Day 3

Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" ~ Matthew 26:48-54

Father God,
We thank you that even in the face of betrayal you call us friend. We thank you for fulfilling your purpose knowing what it would cost you. When we are betrayed by others us give us grace to love them as you love us. Give us strength to walk faithfully with you even when tests and temptation come. In Jesus name,

Amen

Day 4

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ~John 13:6-9,12,15

Father God,

We thank you for your example of humility in service. We thank you for washing and cleansing us allowing us to be clean in you. Just as you washed the feet of your disciples you washed us in your blood. So today Father we will go about our day being humble and showing your love as we serve on our jobs, in our communities, and in our daily interactions. In Jesus name,

Amen

Day 5

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (Which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ~ Mark 15:33-34, 37-38

Father God,

Thank you for loving us so much that you allowed the shedding of Jesus blood as a sacrifice for our lives. You tore the curtain so that nothing is between us giving us a new covenant with you through your son Jesus. Teach us to cry out to you as Jesus did, trusting that your will is what is best for us. Even when life is hard and we feel hurt, alone, overwhelmed and betrayed remind us that you have a plan to prosper us. Let us never forget the debt that was paid. We will forever give your name the glory. In Jesus name,

Amen

Day 6

Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. ~ John 19:40-42

Father God,

We thank you that even when something seems dead it is but a waiting season. We thank you for giving us rest just as you gave Jesus rest in the garden. It was through this rest that you allowed him to rise with all power. Let us have confidence in you knowing that you will give life to every situation concerning your will do our lives. In Jesus name,

Amen

Day 7

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" ~ Mark 16:1-7

Father God,

We rejoice in Your resurrection! Thank you for fulfilling the prophecies and saving us through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. You love us so much that you gave your only son for us. We will forever testify how you exchanged your life for ours. In Jesus name,

Amen