

**Scripture:** John 12:1-8 (Mary Anoints Jesus)

**Metaphor:** fork in the road

**Theme:** Chose Your Path

**Felt Need:** we all have choices to make that will have different outcomes- ultimately we have to make a decision

**Desired Outcome:** that we be intentional about understanding our motivation for the choices we make in following Jesus

**Altar Display**

Fork in the road sign.

**Music suggestions**

“One Way” – Larry Norman

**Movie suggestions**

“The Muppet Movie” – Kermit and Fozzie come to a literal fork in the road.

**Call to Worship**

During Lent we have been on this epic journey. Along the way we’ve felt lost and not known where to go and found that the practice of spiritual disciplines helps to keep us focused and moving in the right direction. We’ve come to realize with Jesus that we’ve got to expect the unexpected- but we have to *be with* Jesus in order to experience that.

We’ve remembered that we all sometimes take a wrong turn and need to recalculate in order to follow the correct path. And, last week as we talked through the parables of the “lost”- son, sheep, coin we remembered how good *we* feel when we find that which was lost. We are also reminded of how precious we are to God so that when we feel and seem so lost truth is, we cannot wander so far as to not be findable by God.

Today as we continue the journey as we find ourselves in the home of Lazarus where Mary anoints Jesus’ feet with costly perfume. Judas, one of the disciples, the one who kept the common purse of the disciples, complained that this perfume should have been sold and the money given to the poor instead. Jesus responds that the poor will always be among us but that we do not always have him. This isn’t to say that we shouldn’t be concerned for those in need or that Jesus isn’t with us. In this encounter with Judas Jesus is referring to his death and that he won’t always be in the flesh among his disciples.

Reminds me of situations that I sometimes find myself in- in which I need to make a decision. Sometimes the decision seems easy. There is a clear right and wrong; good and bad. Sometimes it really doesn’t feel that way. If I were making a pro/ con list I could probably find enough reasons to justify either choice.

I sometimes experience this when I am on the road. A number of roads will get me to an ultimate destination. My GPS is set for the shortest distance- which sometimes takes me through a million traffic lights- which just try my patience- if the road is busy OR if my GPS takes me on roads that won’t allow me to travel as fast as I might on others. Sometimes I find that I have to make an immediate, in the moment decision as to what to do- right now- turn left or go straight, take the highway or the business road. . . sometimes that is the right choice. Sometimes, it really isn’t.

As we continue to journey with Christ to the cross we see another scenario in which a decision of which direction had to be made.

Let’s stand together at the fork in the road as we worship a God who helps you **Choose Your Path**.

**Closing Words**

May the road be easy and your burden be light ad you face forks in the road this week. Have a great day!