

A WEEKLY WORD

By Lois Drover

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. **You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.**" John 12.1-8

As I look at this Gospel from Sunday, I prayed about what to say, and the last sentence Jesus said struck me. *"You will always have the poor."*

Why is it, especially in this day and age, that we still have poor people? Why is it that 80% of the world has 20% of the wealth, and 20% of the world have 80% of the wealth? I feel the second part of the sentence *"but you do not always have me"* answers the question.

In a world that is totally devoted to Jesus, no one would go hungry, sleep on the street, or die of illnesses that can be cured by access to medical care. In a world totally devoted to Jesus, there would be no war or crime.

So what do we do in the meantime? Pray, Pray, Pray for this world that is so out of whack. Give what you can to feed the hungry, provide medical care and shelter to those without. I recently saw a news article that said charitable donations are down by 12%. I know that a lot of people are struggling with the increased costs at the grocery store and the pumps, but if we are obedient to Jesus's call to look after the widow and orphan, He will look after the rest.

James 1:27. *"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."*