

## **HOLY WEDNESDAY/SPY WEDNESDAY**

Please pray with me 'A Prayer for the Nation's Welfare' Psalm 85

Lord, you have been merciful to your land; you have made Israel prosperous again. You have forgiven your people's sins and pardoned all their wrongs. You stopped being angry with them and held back your furious rage. Bring us back, O God our saviour, and stop being displeased with us! Will you be angry with us for ever? Will your anger never cease? Make us strong again, and we, your people, will praise you. Show us your constant love, O Lord, and give us your saving help...Love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will embrace...The Lord will make us prosperous, and our land will produce rich harvests. Righteousness will go before the Lord and prepare the path for him.

Amen!

Reflection:

Holy Wednesday is sometimes called 'Spy Wednesday' because that was the day Judas conspired to hand Jesus over for thirty pieces of silver (cf. Mathew 26: 14). It was in the house of Mary, Martha and Lazarus in Bethany where Mary anoints Jesus with costly perfumed oil (spikenard). Judas objected but Jesus rebuked him and say that Mary has anointed him for his burial (cf. Mathew 26: 6).

Our reflection on this Holy Wednesday/Spy Wednesday reminds us that betrayal is never easy to accept or cope with especially if it is by a trusted friend. But, in forgiving your betrayer as Jesus did, by welcoming him/her to share bread at the same table even dip the bread in the same cup can create space for healing. The advice we get from 1 Chronicles 12: 17 is to leave your betrayer in God's hands.

1. If you are asked to pray this day, what/who would you be praying for?
2. Who would you be thinking of as you pray today?

Here is a prayer I used this morning:

Lord, today I am hurting from the betrayal I have experienced and for those I have betrayed. My heart is bleeding, and I feel angry and disappointed. I forgive those who have betrayed me, and I am open to receive healing from you. Heal my broken heart and bind up my wounds because you said you are always close to the broken-hearted (Psalm 34: 18).

Help those who have been betrayed to overcome the pain and move on. Lord, you are our refuge and we run to you this day. Keep our lives safe and restore us to wholeness. Help us love again and open our hearts to new possibilities. Renew our trust and sustain our hopes in Jesus we pray.

Amen!