

Isaiah 43:16-21

(NRSV)

- ¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down
they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give
water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my
praise.

Philippians 3:4b-14

(NRSV)

⁴ If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have
more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of
the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a
Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under
the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of
Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the
surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have
suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I
may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my
own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in

Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

John 12:1-8

(NRSV)

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ 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. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."