

Some quotations from the theological writings of Emanuel Swedenborg:

The reason the gentiles were meant by Lazarus was that the gentiles were loved by the Lord, just as Lazarus ... was loved by the Lord (John 11:3, 5, 36). He is also called the Lord's friend (John 11: 11), and he reclined at table with the Lord (John 12:2). These two passages show plainly that the truths and kinds of good in the literal sense of the Word are like vessels and garments serving to clothe bare good and truth, which both lie hidden in the spiritual and celestial senses of the Word. The Word being like this in the literal sense, it follows that those who possess Divine truths, and believe that the Word inwardly in its depths is something holy and Divine, and more so those who believe that the Word is like this because of its spiritual and celestial senses, these people, when they read the Word and receive enlightenment from the Lord, see Divine truths by natural light. For the light of heaven, which illuminates the spiritual sense of the Word, exerts an influence on the natural light which illuminates its literal sense, and enlightens one's intellectual, also called rational, faculty, enabling it to see and recognise Divine truths, whether plain to view or hidden. The light of heaven has this effect upon people, sometimes even without their knowing it.

*True Christian Religion #215.4*

...Burial signifies the rejection of [infernal things], and therefore resurrection. For when one casts aside or puts off one's material body, one then puts on a spiritual body, with which one rises again; consequently the death of a person, in the spiritual sense, signifies the continuation of their life.... Since burial, in regard to humanity, signifies resurrection, and also regeneration, therefore burial, in regard to the Lord, signifies the glorification of His Human. For the Lord glorified, that is, made Divine, His whole Human, therefore He rose again on the third day with the Human glorified, that is, made Divine. Unless this had been accomplished, no one could have risen again to life. For people have resurrection to life solely from the Lord, and indeed from the fact that He united the Divine with His Human; from this union which is properly meant by glorification, humanity has salvation. This also is involved in what the Lord said concerning the woman who poured balsamic ointment upon His head, that she did it unto His burial (Matt. 26: 7, 12; Mark 14: 8; John 12: 7); for anointing signifies that glorification; and because man from it has salvation, therefore He said concerning that woman, "Verily, I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, that also which this [woman] hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her" (Matt. 26: 13).

*Apocalypse Explained #659.19*

When the Lord was in the world, His life was altogether the life of a love for the whole human race, which He burned to save forever. That life was of the most intense love by which He united Himself to the Divine and the Divine to Himself. For being itself, or Jehovah, is pure mercy from love for the whole human race; and that life was one of sheer love, as it can never be with any man....

*Arcana Celestia # 2253*

The Lord's 'feet' signify His natural Divine; Natural Divine Good is also signified by 'feet'.... As a consequence of this, those worshipping fell at the Lord's feet. Again, they kissed His feet, and wiped them with their hair (Luke vii 37, 38, 44, 46; John xi 2; xii 3).

*Apocalypse Revealed #49*

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SUNDAY MORNING FORUM  
BIBLE STUDY & SWEDENBORGIAN IDEAS  
**LENT: 5 COSTLY LOVE – The Anointing of Jesus at Bethany**

The sacred oil and fragrances in anointing ointments represent humility and gratitude comprising love of the Lord, It was costly and could not be hidden: “the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.” May our love of God in like manner be evident in our life.

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Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea And a path through the mighty waters, Who brings forth the chariot and horse, The army and the power (They shall lie down together, they shall not rise; They are extinguished, they are quenched like a wick): "Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert. The beast of the field will honor Me, The jackals and the ostriches, Because I give waters in the wilderness And rivers in the desert, To give drink to My people, My chosen. This people I have formed for Myself; They shall declare My praise.

Isaiah 43:16-21

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of [your neighbor]. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself – I am the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Leviticus 129:17-18

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

John 3:14-17

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.

Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

John 12:1-8