

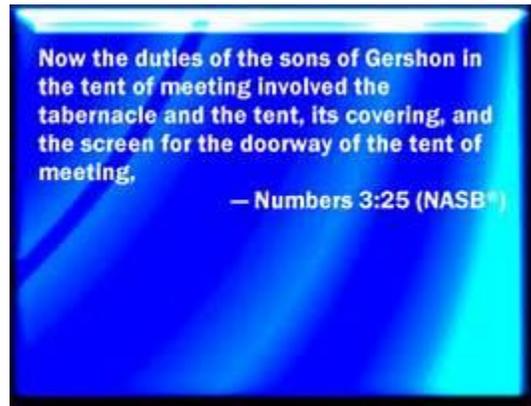
## “Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

**March 2, 2016**

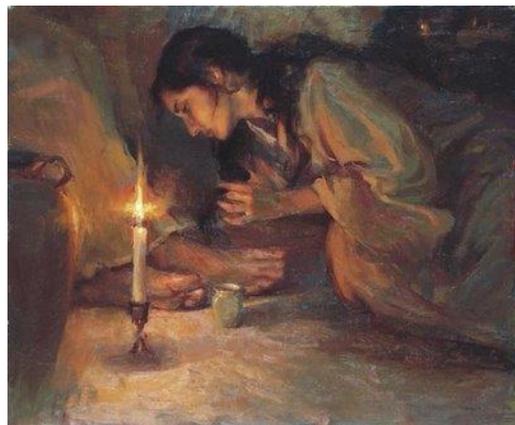
- ✓ Numbers 3:1-39– God’s providential work in the “numbers.”
- ✓ John 12:1-19 – Mary pours out her love on Jesus.
- ✓ Psalm 3-4 – Trusting in God.

### COMMENTARY:

**Numbers 3:1-39.** Genealogical lists give us a small glimpse into God’s providential work, even though we may not recognize them as such. God worked among the people in this list. He chose to use them. They didn’t deserve to be used by God in mighty ways, but they were. Some of the people in these verses were given seemingly insignificant tasks like “The responsibility of the sons of Merari was the supervision of the frames of the tabernacle, its bars, pillars, bases, and all its vessels and all its service,” among other things (3:36). Some believers today if given this assignment would probably think it lame and ask for another. Other believers would be thankful for the privilege of doing something for the Lord. Anything that God asks of us should be followed through with honor. A key aspect of our spiritual lives is how we view our jobs regardless of what station we find ourselves. As a matter of fact, if you do not like your job, you have an extra incentive to do it as unto the Lord. Read Col. 3:22-23 for our Lord’s mandate regarding our work life.



**John 12:1-19.** Note the profusion of Mary’s love! She had one costly possession, the pound of perfume, likely used in her former trade. Out of her great love for Him, she poured it on His head, and on His feet. True love is always profuse. It knows no better use of its best than to lavish it on the beloved and receives nothing but joy for having done so. There is no sense of practical results in terms of worldly possessions. Note the contrasted darkness of Judas alongside her love gift. Goodness often has a way of bringing out the evil of those who are not charitable as they attempt to justify their lack of love and compassion for others. Judas is like the world that does not understand our love and devotion to the Lord. The world simply does not get it. To the world, all that we do is such a waste of time and money. The world may mock her along with all believers, but note how the Lord honors her. Because of love, however, this mattered little to Mary or to us, so long as Jesus is aware of our lives before Him—that is all that really matters, because He is all that really matters.



**Psalm 3-4.** Both of these psalms are similar in structure and expression and probably stem from the same crisis. In the face of “many foes,” David found comfort in God. Using the metaphor of a shield, he said God was the true source of His protection in the face of the taunts of his enemies. David was not thinking in terms of pragmatic terms of simply gaining peace as indicated in his remark that God was his *glory* (3:3). Note the second person relationship David had with God during these trials as he cries to God to hear his prayer. In 4:7-8 the joy and contentment David experienced in trusting in the Lord was greater than harvest festivities. The peace and safety David enjoyed is not to be reduced to some mental attitude dynamic that is simply the result of thinking about something else (even if it is the promises of God in first and third person relationship). David’s joy, peace, and safety was in a transcendent 2<sup>nd</sup> person relationship with God. God was very real indeed—more real than his enemies or his troubles. Consider God’s view of David in Acts 13:22—that kind of virtue is not found in any conduit system of “spirituality.”



In, by, with, through, and for *Esse*,

Pastor Don