Avery Suzuki
Inverted Miracle

You can picture a crowd, literally thousands around a lake, surrounding a hill, trailing after a man they hope can help them. They are women, children, the elderly, the poor, and all manner of others: merchants, beggars, travelers, the curious, the sick, the lame, lepers, prostitutes, tax collectors, scribes, teachers, Pharisees, lawyers, and more. It is humanity – a great sea of people. The Passover is present in their minds. The Passover is a time of political and social unrest, when liberation is recalled. Liberation from Egyptian slavery and liberation from their present societal and political bondage.

The miracle happened at "a lonely place apart" which was where Jesus had gone after he heard the news that John the Baptist was dead, beheaded at the whim of a dancing girl. He had lost his prophet, the man who had baptized him and who had devoted his life to preparing the way of the Lord. And worse than that, he had lost him to murder. God's prophets were not immune to death, that if anything they were more likely to die violently than quietly, and sooner than later.

Excerpt from a sermon delivered by my mother
Rev. Deborah Redman
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