

Refuge City Church — September 27, 2020

“The Gospel of Mark” (Mark 14:1-11)

Introduction

- **Last Study:** Jesus gave His ‘Olivet Discourse’ on the end times, it’ signs, the antiChrist, and His 2nd Coming.
- **Today:** We now enter the final days of Jesus’ ministry on earth.
 - We enter a period in Jesus’ life known as the ‘passion narrative’.
 - All the things covered this past Easter **[primarily Matthew’s account]**, but now we get to look at it from Mark’s perspective.

Scripture Reading (Mark 14:1-11)

1 It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, **2** for they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people.” **3** And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. **4** There were some who said to themselves indignantly, “Why was the ointment wasted like that? **5** For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they scolded her. **6** But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. **7** For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. **8** She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. **9** And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.” **10** Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. **11** And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

Verses 1-2

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- Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread: Celebration of God’s salvation of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.
 - Tens of Thousands **[probably more; 200,000+]** of pilgrims swarmed the city during this time to celebrate.
- The chief priests understand the potential danger and chaos that could take place if Jesus were arrested
 - They’d followed His ministry. They knew of His popularity with the people.
 - **John 11** tells us, “...many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. They were looking for Jesus...”
 - This is why they set out to **“arrest him by stealth and kill him”**.

Verses 3-9

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- Just outside Jerusalem, Jesus was the guest of honor at a dinner **[house of Simon the leper; 'former' leper]**
 - **Attendees:** Jesus, the disciples, Martha & Mary **[Luke 10:38-42]**, Lazarus, Simon the leper, among others we can assume.
 - **Luke 10:40**, "But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me."
 - **John 12:2**, "So they gave a dinner for him there. **Martha served...**"
- Jesus had just raised Lazarus from the dead **[John 11]**, masses of people following Him, the chief priests were seeking to arrest and kill Him, and in a moment of pause, we witness a moment of worship.
- **[Mark doesn't mention her name]** The woman mentioned is Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus.
 - 3 times she is mentioned in scripture. 3 times we find her at the feet of Jesus.
 - **Luke 10:** Martha serves. Mary worships.
 - **John 11:** Weeping at the feet of Jesus as her brother had just died.
 - **Mark 14/John 12:** Anointing Jesus.
 - One pound of spikenard; worth a years wage!
 - **John 12:3**, "Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."
 - **Mark 14:3/Matthew 26:7**, "...and she poured it over his head."
- **REFLECTION: What are you willing to give in worship of our Lord?**
 - Are you willing to give/surrender all, or almost?
 - Two possible consequences of your worship of Jesus:
 1. Others will see your devotion as excessive, crazy, and irresponsible.
 - This may be why we see a lot of 'fair weather' Christians.
 2. It will serve a fragrant offering to the Lord.
 - **2 Corinthians 2:14-16**, "But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the

knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things?"

- **[Verses 4-5]** The disciples become "righteously" angry.. **"And they scolded her."**
 - Usually Peter is the one to speak for the group, but in this case, that role belongs to Judas Iscariot.
 - **John 12:4-6**, "But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?' He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it."
 - Judas had his eyes on the money and/or what he could obtain.
 - Mary had her heart set on Jesus alone.
- **Jesus' Response:** In defense of her action, Jesus explained her heart of devotion.
 - He called her action 'beautiful' = outward sign of inward good **[honorable; noble; worthy]**
 - He also explained, that what she had done was in preparation for His burial...to which the disciples still did not understand.
 - She had abundant love for Jesus, therefore she gave abundantly in her service and worship of Him.
 - Judas had more love for himself and his needs, that he was appalled at her giving.
 - **2 Corinthians 8:8-9**, "I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."
 - Mary could have just told Jesus how much she loved Him. But she desired to show it. Not for herself, but all for Him!
 - Jesus could have just told us how much He loved us. But he desired to show us by sacrificing all for us!
 - **Romans 5:8**, "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- **[Verse 9]** Jesus connects our heart of devotion to the proclamation of the gospel.
 - How can we go to our neighbors, community, or around the world to share the gospel, if we are not wholly devoted in love to our Savior?
 - Mary's action being recorded in 3 gospel accounts should serve as an important illustration for our own lives of love, service, and sacrifice for Jesus.

Verses 10-11

10 Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. **11** And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

- **Matthew 26:15**, “...What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?’ And they paid him thirty pieces of silver.”
 - The chief priests had been scheming how to arrest Jesus without disturbing the crowds...Judas just gave them a way.

Response/Conclusion

- Devotion. Sacrifice. Suffering. Love... sandwiched between... Hatred. Scheming. Selfishness. Greed.
- There will be plenty of people who do all they can to set up their life **[position, status, wealth]** for their own gain.
 - And will do whatever it takes to accomplish their goals.
 - They’ll give just enough to mask themselves in religious piety, yet live solely for their own pleasure... Their life reeks of entitlement.
- Whereas, Mary’s example is chronicled for us to exemplify all we’ve discussed in the last few weeks.
 - Soli Deo Gloria = her heart to anoint and bless Jesus; glory to God alone!
 - Purpose in her pain = she was ridiculed openly for her act of devotion; yet it has served it’s purpose in how we should live.
 - Her example is Christ’s example.
 - Pure devotion, love, sacrificial offering and worship for the glory of God!
 - **Ephesians 5:1-2**, “Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”