

## Mark 14

**The Setting - Two days before Passover (Vs 1,2) :** Passover is a day when Jews commemorate Israel's deliverance from Egypt. The actual "passing over" refers to the last of ten plagues that God brought upon Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let the Hebrew people go (Ex. 6-12). On that night the angel of death was to kill the firstborn of every household. The angel would "pass over" those households whose doors had been sprinkled with the blood of an unblemished lamb that had been sacrificed. Note that it was not the goodness or character of those inside that spared them; rather, it was the blood alone that the angel of death regarded. Passover is followed by the seven-day Festival of Unleavened Bread, commemorating Israel's flight from Egypt. The Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were generally celebrated as one festival, beginning with a meal of lamb, unleavened bread, wine, and bitter herbs. In Jesus day, people came from miles around to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem. Many who came from Galilee had heard about or actually seen Jesus, and they had great respect and expectations regarding him. The chief priests and the scribes, however, wanted to kill Jesus, but they feared upsetting the crowds, especially during Passover. The Gospel shows that Jesus in always in command of his circumstances; including the fact that he was indeed tried and crucified during the feast.

### **Jesus Anointed by a Woman of Bethany (vs 3-9) :**

1. John's Gospel identifies this as Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus. What is the significance of Mary's act? What do you think is her motivation?
2. Why are some of those present upset?
3. How do you think the disciples reacted to what Jesus says in verses 8-9 about Mary's act?

### **The bargain of Judas Iscariot (vs 10,11) :**

4. Judas' betrayal occurs immediately following Mary's anointing of Jesus. What do you think he is feeling?

### **The Last Supper (vs 12-25) :**

5. What verses demonstrate that Jesus is obviously in control of the situation and has full knowledge of what is about to transpire?
6. Why do you think Jesus tells the disciples that one of them will betray him? How do you feel toward Judas? How did Jesus feel toward Judas? How do you think Jesus feels toward you? How do you feel toward Jesus?
7. Why do you think Jesus chose to time his death with the Passover feast?
8. Typically, there were ritual explanations of the symbolic foods during the Passover meal. Jesus' explanations make no mention of Israel's deliverance from Egypt. What does he say the bread and wine are? Why do you think we call this particular Passover meal "The Last Supper?"

### **Peter's denial foretold (vs 26-31) :**

8. Jesus tells the disciples that they would all become deserters. What is Peter's vehement claim?
9. If you've promised to "give your life" for Christ, where and when do you have the hardest time following through with that vow (i.e. threats to your safety, to your reputation, comfort, family, etc.)

### **Jesus in Gethsemane (vs 32-52) :**

10. What do you think makes Jesus "troubled and deeply distressed"?
11. It has been said that the spiritual battle is often won or lost before the crisis comes. How do you find this to be true in Jesus' experience in Gethsemane? What does this tell you about prayer?
12. Why do you think it is necessary for Judas to greet Jesus with a kiss?

### **Jesus' Trial and Peter's Denial (vs 53-72)**

13. The Sanhedrin was a group that decided religious laws and practices. What does Jesus say that causes them to condemn him? Does our practice of "religion" always bring us closer to God?
14. It says that Peter followed Jesus and his captors at a distance. He was close enough to know what was going on, but he tried to stay far enough away that he wouldn't be identified with Jesus. Do you ever experience the conflict between wanting to follow Jesus, but not wanting people to know it?

# Sermon Notes

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Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Passage: \_\_\_\_\_

**What I needed to hear today:** (something to remember, put into practice, change in my thinking, change in my behavior)