

## SERMON OUTLINE

In Mark 14:1-11 we are shown 4 responses to Jesus.

- I. The chief priests and scribes reject Jesus.
  - A. They plan to stealthily arrest and kill him (v. 1).
  - B. They plan to keep peace with men rather than God (v. 2).
- II. A woman worships Jesus.
  - A. She extravagantly anoints Jesus (v. 3).
  - B. She is commended by Jesus.
    1. She has done a beautiful thing (v. 6).
    2. She understands the time (v. 7).
    3. She has sacrificially anointed me for burial (v. 8).
    4. Her act will be remembered (v. 9).
- III. The disciples misunderstand Jesus.
  - A. They misunderstand Jesus' worth (vs. 4-5).
  - B. They misunderstand Jesus' time (v. 7).
- IV. Judas betrays Jesus (vs. 10-11).

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 1, 2016

Passage: Mark 14:1-11

Memory Passage: Mark 14:7-8

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 14:1-11, Ex. 12, & Deut. 16:1-8.** How does Mark's structure of these verses (remember the "sandwiching" technique we have already seen in passages such as 3:21-35 & 11:12-25) beg us to understand the connection of the 3 parts?
- (b) What do you learn about the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread from Exodus 12 & Deuteronomy 16?
- (c) Why is the time marker found in v. 1 (i.e. "2 days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread") important?
- (d) Why were the chief priests and scribes so afraid of the people and their reaction "during the feast"?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 14:1-11.** Was "Simon the leper" currently afflicted with this disease? How do you know? Why might he be referred to as a leper, and why do you think Jesus and the disciples were at his house?
- (b) Why do both Mark and Matthew keep this woman anonymous (John 12 reveals she was Mary, Martha's sister)?
- (c) Why did the woman "break the flask?" What symbolic meaning might be behind this action, whether intended by the woman or not?
- (d) If you were in this woman's place, what emotions would you be feeling as you entered the dinner (which would have been uncustomary for a woman to do) and as you proceeded with your act of anointing?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 14:1-11.** Upon what basis did the disciples deem the woman's act as wasteful?
- (b) When the disciples deem the use of the nard as "wasted," what are they tacitly saying about the woman? About Jesus?
- (c) What do the disciples' responses to the woman's actions ("indignantly," "scolded her") reveal about their own hearts?
- (d) What did the disciples misunderstand about the relationship between the poor and Jesus & His mission on this day?

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 14:1-11.** How would you have felt as one of the disciples who called "wasted" what Jesus calls "beautiful?"
- (b) Do you think the woman planned on anointing Jesus for burial? If not, why did she anoint Him?
- (c) Compare and contrast this woman's gift with the widow's gift in 12:41-44. What similarities do you see?
- (d) In what ways can you care for the poor but at the same time be at odds with Jesus?

### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 14:1-11.** What do Jesus' words in v. 9 reveal about the magnitude of this woman's actions? How have His words come true?
- (b) Compare and contrast Judas' actions with those of the woman. In what ways could your daily life become a more "beautiful" act of worship? What ways might your daily life tacitly (or blatantly) "deny" Jesus, and what changes can you make to change your "denials" to "beautiful" acts of worship?
- (c) Compare the parallel passages (Matt. 26:6-13 & John 12:1-8) and note the differences. What explanation can you give for each of these differences in order to engage a sceptic who believes the differences prove the Scriptures cannot be true?

DATE: May 1, 2016

PASSAGE: Mark 14:1-11

*A Beautiful Anointing*