

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 19TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

## PREPARATIONS (MARK 14:1-11) "IT WAS TWO DAYS BEFORE..."

The days leading up to Jesus' betrayal were days of great anticipation, celebration, and preparation.

- **The Passover** was an annual Jewish festival that **celebrated the angel of the Lord passing over the Hebrew homes** when the firstborn of the Egyptians died (Exodus 12:13-27). **The Festival of Unleavened Bread** followed the Passover, **remembering the swift departure from Egypt.**

## THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS' FEAR

The religious leaders feared that the crowds in Jerusalem would riot if anything was done to Jesus during the festival, so they decided to wait until the festival was over.

- By looking for **"a cunning way to arrest Jesus,"** the chief priests and scribes showed that **their fear of man trumped their fear of God.**

## THE FEAR OF GOD VS. THE FEAR OF MAN

Proverbs 1:7 says that **"the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."** The word used here is different than the one used to communicate "terror." As Believers, we are not to be scared of God but to have **reverence and awe** of Him.

- The **fear of man is a dangerous trap** (Proverbs 29:25) **of people-pleasing and being controlled by others' opinions of us.**
- Hebrews 12:28-29
- Galatians 1:10, NIV

## MARY'S DEVOTION

John's Gospel tells us that the woman who came with **"an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume of pure nard"** was Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus (John 11:1-2).

- We have seen Mary in the Gospels three times (Luke 10:38-42; John 11:31-32; 12:1-8), and each time, **she has shown her love and devotion for Jesus at His feet.**

## THE DISCIPLES' INDIGNATION

Judas may have been the most vocal (John 12:4-5), but he wasn't alone in viewing Mary's sacrifice as a waste (Matthew 26:8).

- Mary wanted to anoint Jesus as a King worthy of such a sacrifice. **Jesus recognized her sacrificial act of love and devotion as preparation for His death and burial.**

## JUDAS' BETRAYAL

Though the religious leaders wanted to wait to arrest and kill Jesus, they could not have anticipated that someone within His camp would betray Him and hand Him over quietly.

- For betraying Jesus, the chief priest offered Judas what he loved most: money. Matthew 26:15 tells us the price for his betrayal was **thirty pieces of silver.**

## THE UPPER ROOM (MARK 14:12-16) AN ODD SIGHT TO SEE

Typically, women carried liquids in pitchers and men would use animal skins, so the directive to find a man carrying a jar would not have been hard to find, even in a crowd of thousands.

- Similar to the colt the disciples retrieved for Jesus' triumphal entry, **we do not know with certainty whether this interaction was worked out beforehand or foreknown in His omniscience.**

## "ON THE FIRST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD..."

Mark and the other synoptic Gospels seem to say that this meal was on the Passover, while John's account says the Passover was the next day. Whichever day it was, this was the evening of **the Lord's Supper.**

- It's interesting that none of the Gospel accounts mention a lamb, but only bread and wine, since **Jesus was the Lamb.**

## "...HE SENT TWO OF HIS DISCIPLES..."

Early in the day, Peter and John (Luke 22:8) went into the city, leaving Jesus and other disciples in Bethany. They found everything to be just as Jesus had told them.

- **Jesus prepares the way** for His disciples to accomplish what He calls them to do. In response, we see **Jesus' disciples preparing to fellowship with Him.**

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

We mimic this meal between Jesus and His disciples each time we take communion. Just as preparations had to be made before the Passover meal, so must we prepare before taking communion.

- We must **honestly evaluate ourselves, repent,** and **remember** Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross as the Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 11:27-29).

## BETRAYAL (MARK 14:17-21) "WHEN EVENING CAME..."

On the evening Jesus was betrayed, He was reclining and eating with His disciples.

- Throughout Jesus' earthly ministry, His disciples heard Jesus say many surprising things, and one of the most surprising things He said to them was, **"Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."**

## "SURELY NOT I?"

No one suspected that it was Judas who would betray Jesus. One by one, the disciples looked for assurance from Jesus that they were not the one who would betray Him.

- Jesus saying that His betrayer was the one **"dipping bread in the bowl with [Him]"** was not singling Judas out because they all dipped bread in the wine.

## JESUS LOVED JUDAS

To break bread with an individual was to show deep trust and friendship with that person. In Jesus' time, to share a meal then immediately betray your friend would have been regarded as the worst kind of treachery.

- To say His betrayer was **"eating with [Him]"** and **"dipping bread in the bowl with [Him]"** is to say that **he was a beloved friend.**

## "WOE TO THAT MAN..."

Judas' betrayal of Jesus fulfilled prophecy about the Messiah (Zechariah 11:12-13), but it was done for his own selfish desires.

- **"The Son of Man [Jesus] will go just as it is written about him"** means Scripture will be fulfilled in Jesus' suffering (Isaiah 53), but Judas would suffer such a fate that **"it would have been better for him if he had not been born."**

## JUDAS' BETRAYAL

- Knowing a lot about Jesus is not what saves someone. We must respond to God's love through devotion and obedience (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- We have all chased after our selfish desires (Isaiah 53:6), yet Jesus invites us to break bread with Him. **How will we respond to His love? Will we reject it or be transformed by it?**

## MARY'S DEVOTION

- Jesus is worthy of our best. The more we love and appreciate Jesus and His love for us the more it will be shown by what we offer Him.
- Is Jesus the highest priority in our lives?
- Are we giving Him the first fruits of our labor, or does He get the leftovers?
- Are we found at His feet?