



# *Gospel of Mark Bible Study*

**Session #18 March 2-7 Mark 14:1-42**

Tuesday 6am @LW – Tuesday 5:15pm @AV

Wednesday 10am & 6:15pm @LW

Sunday 10:30am @AV

## **Jesus Anointed at Bethany - Mark 14:1-11 Life Application Notes**

Mark tells us about Jesus' ultimate deed of servanthood-dying for us on the cross. Jesus died for our sin so we wouldn't have to. Now we can have eternal fellowship with God instead of eternal suffering and death. When first written in Rome, this Gospel was encouraging to Roman Christians during times of persecution. Christ's victory through suffering can encourage us during difficult times too.

**14:1** The Passover commemorated the night the Israelites were freed from Egypt (Exodus 12), when God "passed over" homes marked by the blood of a lamb while killing firstborn sons in unmarked homes. The day of Passover was followed by a seven-day festival called the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This, too, recalled the Israelites' quick escape from Egypt when they didn't have time to let their bread rise, so they baked it without yeast. This holiday found people gathering for a special meal that included lamb, wine, bitter herbs, and unleavened bread. Eventually the whole week came to be called Passover.

**14:1** The Jewish leaders plotted secretly to kill Jesus-his murder was carefully planned. The murder plot was not being planned because popular opinion had turned against Jesus. In fact, the leaders were afraid of Jesus' popularity.

**14:3** Bethany is located on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives (Jerusalem is on the western side). This town was the home of Jesus' friends Lazarus, Mary, and Martha, who were also present at this dinner (John 11:2). The woman who anointed Jesus' feet was Mary, Lazarus's and Martha's sister (John 12:1-3). An alabaster jar was a beautiful and expensive carved vase. Nard was expensive perfume.

**14:3-9** Matthew and Mark placed this event just before the Last Supper, while John placed it a week earlier, just before the Triumphal Entry. It must be remembered that the main purpose of the Gospel writers was not to present an exact chronological account of Christ's life, but to give an accurate record of his message. Matthew and Mark may have chosen to place this event here to contrast the complete devotion of Mary with the betrayal of Judas, the next event in both Gospels.

**14:4-5** Where Mark says "some of those present," John specifically mentions Judas (John 12:4-5). Judas's indignation over Mary's act of worship was based not on concern for the poor but on greed. Because Judas was the treasurer of Jesus' ministry and had embezzled funds (John 12:6), he no doubt wanted the perfume sold so that the proceeds could be put into his care.

**14:6-7** Jesus was not saying that we should neglect the poor, nor was he justifying indifference to them. (For Jesus' teaching about the poor, see Matthew 6:2-4; Luke 6:20-21; Luke 14:13, 21; Luke 18:22.) Jesus was praising Mary for her unselfish act of worship. The essence of worshiping Christ is to regard him with utmost love, respect, and devotion and to be willing to sacrifice to him what is most precious.

**14:10** Why would Judas want to betray Jesus? Very likely, Judas expected Jesus to start a political rebellion and overthrow Rome. As treasurer, Judas certainly assumed (as did the other disciples-see Mark 10:35-37) that he would be given an important position in Jesus' new government. But when Jesus praised Mary for pouring out the perfume, thought to be worth a year's salary, Judas finally began to realize that Jesus' kingdom was not physical or political, but spiritual. Judas's greedy desire for money and status could not be fulfilled if he followed Jesus, so he betrayed him in exchange for money and favor from the religious leaders.

### **Study Questions:**

1. What amazing thing did a woman do while Jesus was visiting Bethany? Where? (14:3)
2. What reaction did the woman's actions get? Why? (14:4-5)
3. Why do you think the woman sacrificed so much perfume?
4. What is one way you can show your devotion to Christ above all other things, people, or ambitions in your life? When?

## **The Lord's Supper - Mark 14:12-26 Life Application Notes**

**14:13** The two men Jesus sent were Peter and John (Luke 22:8).

**14:14-15** Many homes had large upstairs rooms, sometimes with stairways both inside and outside the house. The preparations for the Passover would have included setting the table and buying and preparing the Passover lamb, unleavened bread, sauces, and other ceremonial food and drink.

**14:19** Judas, the very man who would betray Jesus, was at the table with the others. Judas had already determined to betray Jesus, but in cold-blooded hypocrisy he shared the fellowship of this meal. It is easy to become enraged or shocked by what Judas did; yet professing commitment to Christ and then denying him with one's life is also betraying him. It is denying

Christ's love to disobey him; it is denying his truth to distrust him; it is denying his deity to reject his authority. Do your words and actions match? If not, consider a change of mind and heart that will protect you from making a terrible mistake.

**14:20** It was often the practice to eat from a common bowl. Meat or bread was dipped into a bowl filled with sauce often made from fruit.

**14:22-25** Mark records the origin of the Lord's Supper, also called Communion or Eucharist (thanksgiving), which is still celebrated in worship services today. Jesus and his disciples ate a meal, sang psalms, read Scripture, and prayed. Then Jesus took two traditional parts of the Passover meal, the passing of bread and the drinking of wine, and gave them new meaning as representations of his body and blood. He used the bread and wine to explain the significance of what he was about to do on the cross. For more on the significance of the Last Supper, see 1 Cor. 11:23-29.

**14:24** Jesus' death for us on the cross seals a new covenant between God and people. The old covenant involved forgiveness of sins through the blood of an animal sacrifice (Exodus 24:6-8). But instead of a spotless lamb on the altar, Jesus offered himself, the spotless Lamb of God, as a sacrifice that would forgive sin once and for all. Jesus was the final sacrifice for sins, and his blood sealed the new agreement between God and us. Now all of us can come to God through Jesus, in full confidence that God will hear us and save us from our sins.

**14:26** The hymn they sang was most likely taken from Psalms 115-118, traditionally sung at the Passover meal.

#### **Study Questions:**

1. The central emphasis of the Passover meal was traditionally the sacrificial lamb; where did Jesus place His emphasis? (14:22-24)
2. How did Jesus and the disciples conclude their Passover meal? (14:26)
3. What can we learn about the practice of Communion through this passage? Why is Communion important?

### **Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial - Mark 14:27-31 Life Application Notes**

**14:27** It's easy to think that Satan temporarily gained the upper hand in this drama about Jesus' death. But we see later that God was in control, even in the death of his Son. Satan gained no victory-everything occurred exactly as God had planned.

**14:27-31** This was the second time in the same evening that Jesus predicted the disciples' denial and desertion, which probably explains their strong reaction (Mark 14:31). For Jesus' earlier prediction, see Luke 22:31-34 and John 13:36-38.

#### **Study Questions:**

1. What did Jesus reveal to His disciples? (14:27)
2. How did Peter respond to Christ's words? (14:29)
3. What did Jesus say about Peter's loyalty? (14:30)
4. What specific area of your life most tests your loyalty to Christ?

### **Gethsemane - Mark 14:32-42 Life Application Notes**

**14:35-36** Was Jesus trying to get out of his task? Jesus expressed his true feelings, but he did not deny or rebel against God's will. He reaffirmed his desire to do what God wanted. Jesus' prayer highlights the terrible suffering he had to endure-an agony so much more magnified because he had to take on the sins of the whole world. This "cup" was the agony of alienation from God, his Father, at the cross (Hebrews 5:7-9). The sinless Son of God took on our sins and was separated for a while from God so that we could be eternally saved.

**14:36** While praying, Jesus was aware of what doing the Father's will would cost him. He understood the suffering he was about to encounter, and he did not want to have to endure the horrible experience. But Jesus prayed, "Not what I will, but what you will." Anything worth having costs something. What does your commitment to God cost you? Be willing to pay the price to gain something worthwhile in the end.

**14:38** In times of great stress, we are vulnerable to temptation, even if we have a willing spirit. Jesus gave us an example of what to do to resist: (1) pray to God (Mark 14:35); (2) seek support of friends and loved ones (Mark 14:33, 37, 40-41); (3) focus on the purpose God has given us (Mark 14:36).

#### **Study Questions:**

1. What emotions was Jesus feeling? (14:33-34)
2. What distressed Jesus when He returned to His disciples? (14:37)
3. Why did the disciples have so much trouble praying with Jesus? (14:38)
4. Why didn't the disciples watch and pray with Jesus as He asked them to?
5. What stops us from helping people in need?

**Bible Memory Verses:** "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," He said to them. I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God." Mark 14:24-25