



THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God



Part 34

"Faithfulness & Betrayal"

3-13-22

Introduction

"So now the time for talking is over, and it is time for the events to unfold which Jesus has insistently predicted since Caesarea-Philippi, and which will set in train the scenario so vividly sketched out [on the Mt. of Olives]. The confrontation between the rival authorities is now to reach its tremendous climax in the final scene of Mark's drama, as the paradox of the rejected and executed King of the Jews is played out at Passover, the festival which marked the establishment of Israel as the covenant people of God rescued from slavery in Egypt."

—R.T. France, *The Gospel of Mark*

Main Point: The contrasting actions of Mary of Bethany and Judas Iscariot demonstrate that Jesus' identity as Messiah demands from all a _____ which will have significant and lasting implications.

Events Preceding the Passover—Mark 14:1-11

- In the days leading up to the Passover, the religious leaders sought to arrest and execute Jesus. (14:1-2)

Observations:

1. The timing in which these events occurred was significant.

The Passover

The Feast of Unleavened Bread

2. The political power of the _____ meant that the religious leaders had to carefully plan how they could arrest Jesus.

John 11:48—*If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.*"

"were seeking (zēteō)"

Key Point: The plot of the religious leaders was the culmination of their _____ of Jesus as Messiah.

- As Jesus and His disciples were eating at a home in Bethany, a woman came and anointed His head with costly oil. (14:3-9)

Observations:

1. This the same event described by Matthew (26:6-13) and John (12:1-8), but is distinct from the one Luke (7:36-50) records.

2. The woman poured out an entire flask of fragrant ointment upon Jesus' head.

⇒ *"Nard" (spikenard)* was a fragrant oil used by the Romans in making spiced wines and perfume. It was used in many Eastern religious rites.

3. The disciples recognized the _____ of such a commodity and were upset with her.

⇒ A denarius was considered a day's wage for a laborer. Recall that the disciples believed that it would take over 200 denarii to purchase bread for 5,000 men and their families (Mark 6:37).

"they scolded her"

4. Jesus recognized the _____ nature of what she had done and its lasting significance.

"she has anointed my body for burial"

5. John's gospel provides additional details: (1) The woman is identified as Mary of Bethany. (2) She also poured the oil on His feet and wiped it with her hair. (3) Judas is specifically highlighted as being the most upset about her "wasting" of the ointment.

6. Jesus then declared that her actions would have a lasting _____.

Key Point: Mary's actions were a worshipful demonstration of her _____ in Jesus as Messiah and pointed to the reality of both His kingship and His impending death.

- It was then that Judas Iscariot sought out the religious leaders in order that He might betray Jesus.

“betray”

“he sought (zēteō) an opportunity”

Key Point: The actions of Judas were a demonstration of His own _____ and his willingness to identify with those who had rejected Jesus as Messiah.

The Passover with the Disciples—Mark 14:12-21

- On the following day, Jesus sent two of His disciples into Jerusalem to prepare for them to share the Passover meal together.

“The Jews commonly referred to the first day of the combined Passover and Unleavened Bread feasts as the feast of Unleavened Bread. Mark clarified for his Gentile readers that this was the day the Jews slew the Passover lamb, namely, the fourteenth of Nisan. This would have been Thursday, April 2. Mark could say the Passover was two days away on Wednesday (v. 1) because the Jews ate the Passover lamb between sunset and midnight on the evening of the day they slew the lamb. For the Jews this was two days later since they began each day with sunset. The disciples had to prepare to eat the Passover within Jerusalem (Deut. 16:5-6) that very evening.” — Thomas Constable, *Mark*

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Midnight April 2	Midnight April 3
April 1	9:00 a.m. The Jews slew their Passover lambs	9:00 a.m. Jesus was crucified
	Noon	Noon Jesus died
	3:00 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
	6:00 p.m. 15 Nisan	6:00 p.m.
14 Nisan	Midnight The Jews ate their Pass-over lambs	Midnight 16 Nisan

Observations:

1. Jesus instructed the two disciples (Peter & John—Luke 22:8) to go into the city and inquire of a particular person where they could find a room for the meal.

2. The disciples _____ Jesus and found everything just as He had said.

3. As they ate the meal, Jesus addressed the disciples and _____ His betrayal.

4. Jesus then recognized that the events which were to transpire would do so in _____ of Scripture.

Isa. 53:7—He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth

Zech. 12:10b—when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Psa. 41:7-9—⁷All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. ⁸They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.” ⁹Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

Key Point: That Jesus’ words to the two disciples came to pass created a sense of foreboding that what He said about His betrayal and had previously stated about His death would also soon be _____.

Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God

- Mark wants his audience to consider the examples of the woman (Mary of Bethany) and Judas in order that we might reckon with the concepts of both true and false discipleship.

“Her lavish devotion stands out because it is followed by the story of a false disciple, Judas, who sells out his master to those scheming to put him to death...Jesus says that she will be remembered always for her act of love wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world (14:9). Judas, who ironically was one of the Twelve chosen by Jesus to be sent out to preach, will be remembered always for his act of treachery.” —David Garland, *A Theology of Mark’s Gospel*

(1) Faith in Jesus is characterized by worship and _____ - _____.

(2) Rejection of Jesus is characterized by selfishness and _____ - _____.

Concluding Thought: What do we truly value?

Phil. 3:7-11—⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.



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(1) Faith in Jesus is characterized by worship and self-sacrifice.

(2) Rejection of Jesus is characterized by selfishness and self-preservation.

Concluding Thought: What do we truly value?

Phil. 3:7-11—⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.