

## Mark 14:1-31 ~ Scripture Verses

### *Jesus Anointed at Bethany*

<sup>1</sup> Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill him. <sup>2</sup> “But not during the Feast,” they said, “or the people may riot.”

<sup>3</sup> While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

<sup>4</sup> Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? <sup>5</sup> It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages [a] and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.

<sup>6</sup> “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>7</sup> The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup> She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. <sup>9</sup> I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

<sup>10</sup> Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. <sup>11</sup> They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

### *The Lord’s Supper*

<sup>12</sup> On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus’ disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

<sup>13</sup> So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. <sup>14</sup> Say to the owner of the house he enters, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ <sup>15</sup> He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

<sup>16</sup> The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

<sup>17</sup> When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. <sup>18</sup> While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.”

<sup>19</sup> They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely not I?”

<sup>20</sup> “It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me. <sup>21</sup> The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

<sup>22</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”

<sup>23</sup> Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.

<sup>24</sup> “This is my blood of the [b] covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. <sup>25</sup> “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.”

<sup>26</sup> When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### *Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial*

<sup>27</sup> “You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, “for it is written:

“I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ [c]

<sup>28</sup> But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

<sup>29</sup> Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.”

<sup>30</sup> “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice [d] you yourself will disown me three times.”

<sup>31</sup> But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same.

### Footnotes:

a. Mark 14:5 – Greek: than three hundred denarii

b. Mark 14:24 – Some manuscripts: the new

c. Mark 14:27 – Zech. 13:7

d. Mark 14:30 – Some early manuscripts do not have twice.

[New International Version, NIV, 1984]

## Mark 14:1-31 ~ Discussion Questions

1. When you want to give a special gift to someone you love, which kind of thing do you look for? Be honest!

Totally frivolous ..... Very practical  
Something I like ..... Something she/he would like  
Expensive ..... Inexpensive, but creative  
Something you use ..... Something you look at  
Responding to the current need ..... Anticipating future need

2. Why do you think the woman spent a year's wages on perfume? (a) to express devotion to Jesus, (b) to show off, (c) to get to heaven, (d) on an impulse

3. Why were Jesus' friends so upset? (a) she crashed the party, (b) she wasted money, (c) she made everybody look cheap, (d) she was a known prostitute, (e) she was a little weird

4. If you had been one of the disciples, what would you have said to the woman? (a) let's save the money for the poor, (b) do what you want—it's your money, (c) what a waste, (d) beat it!

5. What was the motive of the people who criticized the woman? (a) concern for the poor, (b) greed, (c) jealousy toward the woman, (d) hope of embarrassing Jesus

6. What was Jesus really saying when he defended the action of the woman? (a) extravagance is okay, (b) her motive made it okay, (c) don't worry about the poor, (d) don't judge another's motives

7. For Judas, this was the last straw. Why? (a) Jesus fraternized with a woman, (b) Jesus didn't care about the poor, (c) Jesus predicted his own death, (d) Jesus thought himself pretty important

8. When it comes to giving away money, what factors do you consider? (a) tax deduction, (b) how great the need is, (c) how it will be used, (d) what others will think, (e) my commitment to that cause, (f) something else

9. In a practical way, how can you show your devotion to Christ above all other things, people, or ambitions in your life? What's most valuable for you to give up?

10. In addition to finding a place for it, what other preparations were necessary for the Passover meal? (14:12-13)

11. Jesus sent two disciples (who? Luke 22:8) with instructions to do what? (14:13-14). Do you think Jesus knew the owner of the house?

12. How did Jesus' prediction compare to what the disciples actually found when they entered the city? (14:16)
13. How did Jesus specify who would betray him? What was the disciples reaction to Jesus' prediction of his betrayal? (14:17-21)
14. The central emphasis of the Passover meal was traditionally the sacrificial lamb; where did Jesus place his emphasis? (14:22-24)
15. Most Protestant denominations celebrate just two holy sacraments: baptism and Communion (the Lord's Supper). Why is Communion so important?
16. How does the old covenant God made with Israel compare to or differ from the new covenant he has made through the blood of Jesus Christ? (Jeremiah 31:31-34)
17. When Jesus says to his disciples in 14:27, "you will all fall away," did he mean that they would lose their faith in Jesus or did he mean something else? (Matthew 26:56)
18. Why do you think that Jesus sometimes chose to reveal to his disciples what would happen in the future and at other times left them in the dark? Do you feel that the Bible is sometimes like that—perfectly clear on some things, but leaving you in the dark on others? How does that make you feel? Why do you think God does this?
19. Peter insisted emphatically that he would never disown Christ yet within the next six hours, he did so three times. What is the benefit in knowing we are vulnerable to failure?
20. Why do some Christians fall away from following Christ?
21. What in your life most tests your loyalty to Christ? Be specific!
22. What role does accountability play in helping you remain loyal to Christ?
23. How should you react if another believer falls away from his faith?

## Mark 14:1-31 ~ Leader's Guide

1-8. For each of the first eight questions, you might think there is one correct answer, but as you consider each one, you'll see that several answers might be correct depending upon who you are, your background, and your attitude toward Christ and the Bible.

10. In addition to finding a place for it, what other preparations were necessary for the Passover meal? (14:12-13)

The preparations would have included obtaining food for the meal such as unleavened bread, wine, bitter herbs, and a lamb (male, 1 year old), which must be slaughtered, skinned, blood caught in cups, and roasted in the way prescribed by the Jewish law. This is an elaborate and lengthy process. Moreover, Jesus told his disciples to do it more-or-less in secret, which made it even more difficult.

11. Jesus sent two disciples (who? Luke 22:8) with instructions to do what? (14:13-14). Do you think Jesus knew the owner of the house?

Jesus sent Peter and John. It was a Jewish custom that anyone in Jerusalem that had a room available would give it upon request to a pilgrim to celebrate the Passover. Jesus told the disciples to say, "The Teacher asks..." which suggests the owner was a follower already known to Jesus. The NIV Study Bible suggests that Jesus had made arrangements with the owner in advance.

12. How did Jesus' prediction compare to what the disciples actually found when they entered the city? (14:16)

Exactly as he had said. The entire episode shows that God is in the details. Nothing is left to chance.

13. How did Jesus specify who would betray him? What was the disciples reaction to Jesus' prediction of his betrayal? (14:17-21, John 13:26-27)

The accounts in the three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) simply say "one who is eating with me" or "one who dips bread into the bowl with me." However, John spells it out more fully in 13:26-27: <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. <sup>27</sup> As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

"What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him,

Why the difference between the synoptic gospels and John? John was written much later than the synoptics, undoubtedly had a different audience and purpose.

To a man, the disciples reaction of Jesus' prediction that one would betray him was, "Surely, not I." But, of course, how else would they react, including Judas?

14. The central emphasis of the Passover meal was traditionally the sacrificial lamb; where did Jesus place his emphasis? (14:22-24) What does *Eucharist* mean?

In a physical sense, Jesus placed emphasis on the wine and bread. But that was because it represented his body and blood. Interestingly, only Luke (and later, Paul) record Jesus' command to continue to celebrate the supper.

*Eucharist* in some denominations has come to mean the Lord's Supper, however it is derived from a Greek term meaning "give thanks" found in all the Gospels, here in Mark 14:22 and 14:23.

15. Most Protestant denominations celebrate just two holy sacraments: baptism and Communion (the Lord's Supper). Why is Communion so important?

Yes, the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Anointing of the Sick (Extreme Unction), Holy Orders, and Marriage.

Most Anglican churches specify that only two of them — Baptism and the Holy Eucharist — are seen as having been ordained by Christ. In this sense, Baptism and the Eucharist are the "precepted, primary, and principal sacraments ordained for our salvation," and the other five sacraments are lesser, deriving their efficacy from the former, if they are sacraments at all. If they are not sacraments, they still are rites to be performed as needed in the Church.

Mormons recognize only Communion as a sacrament while the Quakers (Religious Society of Friends) do not practice formal sacraments at all, believing that all activities should be considered holy.

Why is Communion so important? Baptism is a sacrament done once in your life. Thus Communion, the only other sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ, is the only tangible remembrance and celebration we have as believers. It represents Jesus' body and blood freely given to us for our salvation.

16. How does the old covenant God made with Israel compare to or differ from the new covenant he has made through the blood of Jesus Christ?

There were actually many covenants in the Old Testament. (Check out the very comprehensive reference in Wikipedia.) There were covenants between God and Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, and with the people of Israel. Briefly stated, the foundation of the Torah is the belief that God chose the Children of Israel, in His wisdom and for His purposes, and made His covenant with them. This covenant requires the Children of Israel not to practice idolatry and to live their lives according to the commandments. In return, God promises them many things such as: To Abraham: to make him a father of many nations and of many

descendants and to give his descendants the land of Canaan as well as the entire middle-east. To Jacob: that his descendants will be numerous like the dust of the earth. To Moses: to make the children of Israel God's special possession among all people. To the Children of Israel: to prosper the Israelites above their fathers, to restore the Israelites spiritually, and to put all the curses of Israel upon Israel's enemies.

In the New Testament, when Jesus presents the wine to his disciples, he says that it is the blood of the covenant poured out for them. Matthew explains that the pouring out of the blood was done for the forgiveness of sins. Luke calls it the new covenant. In Acts, Peter tells them that God has sent the resurrected Jesus first to them to bless them and forgive them of their sins. He proclaims Jesus to be the covenant "seed" promised to Abraham. The Christian New Covenant involves the theological concept of a new relationship between God and humans mediated by Jesus. This new relationship is available to all people, both Jews and Gentiles.

Actually, Jeremiah mentioned this "new covenant" back in the OT.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 – <sup>31</sup>Behold, days are coming - the word of HASHEM - when I will seal a new covenant with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

17. When Jesus says to his disciples in 14:27, "you will all fall away," did he mean that they would lose their faith in Jesus or did he mean something else?

Jesus did not mean they would lose their faith in him but that their courage would fail and they would forsake him. We often focus on Peter alone but Peter stayed with Jesus the longest after all the other 11 had previously deserted him and fled (Matthew 26:56).

18. Why do you think that Jesus sometimes chose to reveal to his disciples what would happen in the future and at other times left them in the dark? Do you feel that the Bible is sometimes like that—perfectly clear on some things, but leaving you in the dark on others? How does that make you feel? Why do you think God does this?

Much of the previous chapter (13) focuses on this issue. The question boils down to the last one in the last lesson: how would the disciples (and others) have responded if Jesus told them he would not return for at least another 2,000 years?

19. Peter insisted emphatically that he would never disown Christ yet within the next six hours, he did so three times. What is the benefit in knowing we are vulnerable to failure?
20. Why do some Christians fall away from following Christ?
21. What in your life most tests your loyalty to Christ? Be specific!
22. What role does accountability play in helping you remain loyal to Christ?
23. How should you react if another believer falls away from his faith?