

The Gospel of Mark

Group Guide: Week 24, Mark 14:1-31

INTRODUCTION

This passage recounts some of the final scenes in Mark's gospel before Jesus is crucified. Mark begins his narrative by describing how the chief priests and scribes plotted to kill Jesus. Like many other passages in Mark, this scene is juxtaposed with a seemingly unrelated scene of a woman anointing Jesus. Jesus then shares a final meal with his disciples, institutes the Lord's supper, and foretells Peter's ultimate denial. In it all, we see Jesus orchestrating His own death and being perfectly faithful to fulfill His Father's redemption plan. Let us be encouraged by Jesus' faithfulness and obedience in the face of impending death.

PRAYER

READ

Ask one or two group members to read Mark 14:1-31.

SUMMARIZE

Ask two group members who didn't summarize last week to summarize the passage this week.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Have you ever immediately had "buyer's remorse"? Share your story.
- 2. In verses 3–9, the disciples self-righteously declare the woman's sacrifice a waste. Jesus, however, calls the anointing a "beautiful thing" even though the woman's sacrifice was unconventional and costly by earthly standards. How willing are you to embrace the unconventional and costly sacrifices of following Jesus? In your own financial giving, have you ever held back from radical giving because of earthly wisdom or fear of what others might think of that sacrifice?

N.T. FURTHER READING

Matt. 26:2-16; Luke 22:1-6, John 13:21-38

O.T. FURTHER READING

Ex. 12:1-27; Deut. 16:1-5; Deut. 15:11; Zech. 13:7;

FURTHER STUDY

As you read write out any words in this passage that would be helpful for you to look up in a dictionary.

3. Judas' betrayal immediately follows the anointing of Jesus by the woman in the verses 3–9. Interestingly, Judas was tempted by money, the very thing the woman sacrificially gave in the verses prior. Are there areas in your life where a love of comfort, money, status, or approval take precedence over a love for Christ?	NOTES
4. Reread verses 12–16. Jesus provides specific details about how to find the room in which they were to eat the Passover meal, which closely resembles the specific details and plan He provided to find the donkey during the triumphal entry. God uses secondary characters (e.g. the donkey and the owner of the upper room) to provide integral moments in the gospel story. How does God's use of seemingly unimportant characters encourage you to continue your role in God's redemption story?	
5. In verses 26-31, Peter emphatically states that he will not deny Jesus. In what ways to do you proclaim allegiance to Jesus with your mouth but deny Him in your actions?	SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Mark 14:36
6. Read 2 Timothy 2:11-13. All of us deny Jesus with our actions, share why this 2 Timothy passage is good news that fuels our assurance of salvation.	
RESPONSE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS Personal: Share one area where you are tempted to deny Christ in your actions	

Personal: Share one area where you are tempted to deny Christ in your actions and ask your group to pray for you this week.

Church: Is there a sacrifice you need to make to help build up the body this week? (for some this may be physically serving or financially, others it may be having a conversation with a visiting person or taking someone out to lunch after service)

World: As a group pick one missionary from our church body to devote prayer to this week.

LENT READING: Isaiah 58:1-12

PRAY TOGETHER