

Mark 14:1-25
Anointed
November 9 2025

1. Review—Let's remember where we are in the Passion Week
 - a. Jesus devoted roughly two weeks to focus on the twelve. They spent most of their time confused.
 - i. Revealing His identity as both the Suffering Servant and the Triumphant King.
 - ii. Teaching them vital lessons they would need later.
 - iii. Telling them He would die in Jerusalem.
 - b. He arrived in Bethany and stayed in Lazarus' home, traveling the short distance into Jerusalem each day of the following week.
 - c. Sunday: The Triumphal Entry
 - d. Monday: Cleansing of the Temple
 - e. Tuesday
 - i. Four conversations.
 1. Three questioning His authority.
 2. The final question was from a genuine seeker.
 - ii. Bonus conversation when Jesus shuts down the Jewish leaders and commends the widow
 - iii. Bold declaration that Jesus is the Triumphant King
 - iv. **Be on the alert!** Repeated four times.
2. Read Mark 14:1-25 and pray.
3. This passage covers Wednesday and Thursday of Passion Week. There is a lot going on in this passage! Here are the highlights:
 - a. Wednesday
 - i. Jewish leaders make the decision they will kill Jesus. Judas decides to be the betrayer. Verses 1-2; 10-11
 - ii. Jesus' head is anointed with oil. We will come back to this.
 - b. Thursday
 - i. Passover meal set up. **Important lesson here: We are often the beneficiaries of Divine Appointments. God plans ahead to use us to further His agenda.**

- ii. Jesus warns of His betrayal. Pastor Tim will cover this in greater depth next week.
 - iii. Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper. I will cover that next week when we practice the Lord's Supper together.
- 4. Jesus is anointed by an anonymous woman.
 - a. Important Bible interpretation issues. We must not shy away from discrepancies in the Gospel narratives.
 - i. John's account of this scene in chapter 12 has some important differences. I will not cover those today. The greater issue is how we handle the apparent inconsistency.
 - 1. This inconsistency in eye witness accounts should not undermine your confidence in the Bible. It is still God's inspired Word delivered through human agency.
 - 2. The inconsistency actually reinforces the overall message. Perfect alignment in eye witness accounts *undermines* trust because it looks like collusion to fabricate a story.
 - 3. The significance of the event is not *in any way* undermined by the differences in perspective.
 - b. Re-read the verses:

While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head. But some were indignantly remarking to one another, "Why has this perfume been wasted? For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they were scolding her. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them; but you do not always have Me. She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial. Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."

- c. The objections of the disciples. Two reasons:
 - i. In Matthew's account, Jesus had just finished an extended description of the final judgment. The test that determined one's ultimate destination was the treatment of the poor and marginalized. They were probably

reacting to her failure to understand Jesus' message. Ironic, coming from the disciples!

ii. In John's account, Judas was the one complaining because he carried their purse and was stealing from it.

iii. Jesus' rebuttal:

1. The poor you always have with you but I am leaving.
2. She did a good deed for me.

d. The woman's good deed:

i. Anointing Him

1. Priest: Exodus 40:13-15

You shall put the holy garments on Aaron and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister as a priest to Me. You shall bring his sons and put tunics on them; and you shall anoint them even as you have anointed their father, that they may minister as priests to Me; and *their anointing will qualify them for a perpetual priesthood throughout their generations.*"

2. King: 1 Samuel 16:13

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

3. For burial:

She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial.

ii. **Do not miss the point: Her good deed was recognizing Jesus. She demonstrated a greater understanding than the disciples.**

Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her." (Mark 14:9)

e. Why is her deed so noteworthy that it will be told wherever the Gospel is preached?

- i. She knew Jesus.
- ii. She sacrificed for Jesus.
- iii. She was bold with Jesus.
- iv. She had the right priorities.
- v. She modeled the character Jesus is looking for in His followers.

5. Application:

a. Jesus, do you know Him? John 17:3

- b. Jesus values our free offering of all we have *because we know Him!*
 - i. Widow's mite
 - ii. Call to discipleship (Mark 8:34-38)
- c. God gives us permission to be bold with Him.
 - i. We are God's children (Romans 8:14-17)
 - ii. We are urged to come boldly (Hebrews 4:16)
- d. Priorities matter!
 - i. Jesus first.
 - ii. Then the poor, then our other offerings.
- e. How about you? Do you show this kind of character?