



Passionate Love

Community Study Guide: **Mark 14:1-11** –Week of May 5th, 2024

1. Passionate for Power

To begin the passage, we see the first of three examples in which scripture shows the condition of the heart. Leading up to the holy days for the Jewish faith, we see that the chief priest and scribes have moved from discrediting to attempts to attack Jesus directly. They are looking for a way to arrest and kill Him. The one thing that concerns them, however, is how people might respond to such actions. They are afraid of the people, that they might start an uproar. Once more the religious elites show their passion for the people; their passion for their power over them. They conspire to humiliate Jesus without hurting their beloved control. This is why they pursued stealth. However, the Lord was able to take the wrath of man and use it for His praise. The crucifixion designed to besmirch Jesus as cursed, ultimately brought Him to the highest of honor.

2. Passionate for Jesus

Amidst two other stories of those whose hearts were seeking sinful ends, we have the story of the anointing of Jesus. Here, we see a starkly different approach to Jesus. We see a woman (Mary, sister of Lazareth), give an incredible gift to Him. She, during a meal, takes an extremely expensive jar of ointment, and anoints Jesus with it. She did this to prepare His body for burial. The responses from those in the setting are interesting. The disciples scolded Mary. They are upset at her actions, claiming that greater things could have been done with such a valuable asset. They considered the outpouring of this ointment

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

As Christians, we are always in a war for our affections, our passions, our worship. We must be careful to have humble hearts that see Christ for what He is, the glorious Lamb of God worthy of all that we have. To this end, we are to offer all that we have to Him, that He might use everything we are for His glory. We are to be passionate for Him, because He was passionate for us.

Heart

Our temptation is to love creation over loving the creator. Our ultimate affections must be for Christ, and everything else is secondary. Ordering our loves, surrendering our priorities, and given our passions to Christ are what is required.

Hands

Search your heart and mind for the things that you are tempted to elevate above your love for Christ. Ask the Lord to help your unbelief, and give Him your passion

as reckless and that it was wasted. However, Christ rebukes the disciples. He calls her act beautiful. The difference between Mary and the disciples was this: She thought Jesus was worth the sacrifice of something so valuable, and the disciples did not. Mary saw that Jesus was worthy of worship, and worship of the greatest degree she could provide. Likewise, we as Christians need to consider our hearts. Are we willing to worship God with all that we have, or are do we find ourselves still desiring other things above God Himself.

3. Passionate for Money

To book end this passage, we see another specific example of passion being used toward the wrong ends. Judas, after seeing the events that transpired with ointment, has decided to take action against Jesus. He goes to the chief priest, and for the payment of money, he begins to try and find a way to betray Jesus. He shows that ultimately his passion was for money, and that it he would choose it over his Savior.

Read Mark 14:1-11

1. Scripture tells us that the setting for these three stories is in the days leading up to Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. What were these events? How were these celebrations designed to imitate God's definite plan that was about to unfold in the coming days?
2. Why did the scribes and Pharisees choose this time to move more directly against Jesus? Why did they do it in stealth? What does this reveal about their hearts?
3. While visiting Simons' house in Bethany, a woman anoints Jesus with ointment. What was noteworthy about this passage or her? What details in the passage give us insight into her heart position?
4. How did the disciples respond to the woman's act? How did Jesus? What did it reveal about the disciples?
5. Read Verse 7. What is meant by this verse? What can we practically learn from it?
6. After the events of the dinner, Judas finally moves to betray Christ. What drove him to this action? In what ways does the story of Judas change or influence your understanding?
7. We see within this passage three separate examples of people's passions. The first is the Pharisees' with their passion for power and the exercise of it. Second, we see the woman and her passion to honor Christ with all that she had. Third, we see Judas' passion for money, in which he ultimately sold himself to. One of these passions leads to life and good. The others lead to death and destruction. Considering your own heart, your own passions, where is the Lord calling turn away from evil passions? Where is an area of life where you need to have a greater passion for what the Lord has called you to?