

## Mark 14:12-21 “Master in control”

So there is a **CALM EYE** in the midst of this storm of mounting opposition. **It is a home in Bethany**, a shelter of intimate friends who come to honor him. Jesus would be free from tension amidst people who loved him.

**Other gospel writers provide the guest list:**

1. Simon, a leper Jesus healed;
2. Lazarus, a dead man Jesus raised,
3. Martha, who served him;
4. Mary, who sat at his feet;
5. the disciples, who left everything and followed him.

*Mary comes with perfume. **Expensive perfume.** As she anoints him, the aroma of **extravagant love** fills the room. So pure. So lovely. Flowing from the veined alabaster jar of her heart, a heart broken against the hard reality of her Savior’s imminent death.*

**John tells us that after pouring ointment upon Jesus’ head, Mary wiped His feet with her hair (12:3). As a result, her hair took on the same fragrance as His feet.**

**She smelled just like Jesus.**

**THAT’S WHAT WORSHIP DOES.** Tired of smelling like the world... **does your attitude STINK?**

**BECOME A WORSHIPPER!** *Pour yourself out in private worship... corporate worship... morning devotions... **Worship is the most intimate expression of those who long to smell like Jesus.***

**Jesus is so moved by Mary’s act of worship in verse 9 of chapter 14 He says,** Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.” *Mary’s act of worship affected the entire community. Throughout history, Bethany is a place of which people who know the Word and love the Lord have been very aware. Why? **Because one woman poured out worship.** The early church referred to this event often in its preaching and teaching. So does the church today—as all around the world Mary’s singular act of worship is spoken of*

constantly. As G Campbell Morgan has stated, "I would rather be a successor to Mary of Bethany than to the whole crowd of the apostles." She truly loved Jesus.

From this moment on a tangible gloom will loom in the air. The coming days and hours will be dark for our Savior. Verses 10 and 11 ended our section of scripture with the knowledge that Judas had ratted out Jesus for the promise of money. **10** Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the

chief priests to betray Him to them. **Pray** Fairest Lord Jesus: Grant

that my heart would be a Bethany For you – a quiet place of friendship where you were the honored guest.

**12** Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, "Where do You want us to go and prepare, that You may eat the Passover?" **13** And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him. **Carrying water was the job of women, so a man carrying a Pitcher of water would have stood out even in a crowd. Like a dude carrying a purse today... I guess not anymore!**

**Oxymoron** Man purse Temporary tax increase... *Pretty ugly...* 17-ounce pound cake... Jumbo Shrimp Rap music **MICROSOFT WORKS**

*Anyone who goes to a psychiatrist ought to have his head examined.*

If you fall and break your legs, don't come running to me.

**Oxymoron** Man purse

**So find the guy carrying a pitcher of water and verse 14** Wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, "The Teacher says, "Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"" *The scene here implies secrecy, and Jesus had good reason to quietly make arrangements for Passover. Jesus didn't want Judas to betray Him before He could give a final important talk to the disciples.*

**15** Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished *and* prepared; there make ready for us." **Most likely, it was the same room wherein the disciples met on the Day of Pentecost.**

**16** So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover. **17** In the evening He came with the twelve. **As we just saw Jesus took *mastery by his premeditated arrangements for the celebration of the Passover. That he had given the Passover meal much thought is evidenced by his ready, detailed instructions to the disciples when they asked what they were going to do for Passover.***

**Why all this care?** Again, because it hid the location from Judas so it was impossible for him to reveal it.

It would be the **final meal** Christ would eat on this earth. He wanted to control every aspect of this last Passover meal.

As per Hughes "Lastly... Jesus took such great care in preparation for the Passover meal was that it was a night when devout Jews were filled with hope of God's intervention once more. Exodus 12:42 says of the Passover, "Because the Lord kept vigil that night to bring them out of Egypt, on this night all the Israelites are to keep vigil to honor the Lord for the generations to come." The Jewish commentary on that passage reveals that "in that night they were redeemed and in that night they will be redeemed in the future." Jesus' fulfillment of the Passover was in accord with the dream for Israel, and he wanted them to see it!"

**18** Now as they sat and ate, **At the first Passover God commanded them to eat the meal standing and ready to leave Egypt (Exodus 12:11). Since Israel came into the Promised Land, they believed that they could eat the Passover **sitting or reclining**, because now they were at rest in the land God gave them.**

**John in his gospel adds color to the story... John 13:23-26** Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus

loved. 24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. 25 Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped *it*." And having dipped the bread, He gave *it* to Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon.

Picture a u-shaped table that was low to the ground. To eat, one would recline around the table, leaning on his right arm and using his left to dip bread into a common dish. From John's Gospel we know that John was on Jesus' right side (13:23). This means the one who dipped his hand into the dish with the Lord must have been on his left side—which was always the place of honor. In other words, Jesus gave Judas the place of honor the very night he betrayed Him. And when Judas would come a few hours later with the soldiers who would arrest Him, Jesus would say to Judas, "Friend, why have you come?" (Matthew 26:50). Until the end, Jesus gave Judas an opportunity to repent. **Wow, what love, Jesus**

**placed Judas in a place of honor, and to the very end called him friend,** Jesus would have taken the wine, drinking the first cup. He recited the story of their exodus and redemption from Egypt. Jesus led the singing of "a new song" for their redemption, which was the first part of the ancient Hallel from Psalms 113-115. He then directed their drinking of the second cup. After this he blessed and broke the bread, which he handed to the disciples, who ate it by dipping it into the bitter herbs and stewed fruit.

**17** In the evening He came with the twelve. **18** Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me (dips with me) will betray Me." In saying **who eats with Me** (dips with me), Jesus is not singling out Judas (though Judas, sitting in the place of honor, would have been given the special portion). All the disciples dipped with Him, so this phrase identifies the betrayer as a *friend*.

John says He was troubled in spirit as He unleashed this bombshell.

It was a horrifying announcement, especially in its final wording – "one who is eating with me," an allusion to Psalm 41:9, which speaks of the infamous treachery of Ahithophel.

**Ahitophel** (counselor of King David and a man greatly renowned for his foresight and wisdom. At the time of Absalom's revolt he deserted David

and espoused the cause of Absalom.

**Psalm 41:9** Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up *his* heel against me.

In Middle Eastern culture, betraying a friend after eating a meal with him *was and is* regarded as the worst kind of treachery.

Judas had done a pretty good job of deception. Betrayal? Who? Psalm 55 prophesied about the betrayal of a friend... enemies betray... not friends.

~~Thrones...~~ ~~hypocrites.~~

How could he see what he saw? How could he know what he knew?

That called him the “*evangelical bank robber*” William Matix, described in the April 14, 1986 *Chicago Tribune*, who killed two F.B.I. agents before he himself was gunned down. Though involved in numerous robberies, he maintained the image of a born-again Christian family man who gave testimonies in his church and was even featured in *Home Life Magazine* as an upstanding Christian example.

**Isa. 29:13** Therefore the Lord said: “Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men.

**19** And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, “Is it I?” And another *said*, “Is it I?” **Judas, calm and cool, mouthed the same words, is it I? fooling everyone but Jesus.**

**JESUS KNEW.** All He had to do was point and say, “**Judas you are a liar... it is you!**” Peter would have had Judas in a full nelson within 3 seconds.

John’s gospel chapter 13 verses 10 and 11 record how and when Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. **YES, HE EVEN WASHED JUDAS’ FEET.**

Jesus said, “And you are clean, though not every one of you.” For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean”. The Love of our Savior went out to the wicked heart of Judas. **His appeals for repentance went to the very last minute. Jesus delights in forgiving**

sinners.

*Then when Jesus alluded to Psalm 41 about Ahithophel, the traitor who hung himself, he was again saying, "**Judas, my friend, don't do this! Think of what happened to Ahithophel.**" We know, of course, that Judas ultimately did hang himself, as did Ahithophel before him.*

Hughes again, "What an act of love! In the culture of the day, to take a morsel from the table, dip it in the common dish, and offer it to another was a gesture of friendship. For example, when Boaz invited Ruth to fellowship with him, he said, "Come over here. Have some bread and dip it in the wine vinegar" (Ruth 2:14). Jesus was reaching out to Judas. Quietly, intimately, he was saying in effect, "Here is my friendship and forgiveness. All you have to do is take it, my old friend. Will you?"

*If we miss His love towards Judas - rejected love, to be sure - if we miss that love, we miss the whole story.*

**20** He answered and said to them, "*It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish. Really Jesus? great that narrows it down to all of us.* **21** The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born."

Judas... a name ruined forever

Adolph... Benedict... Jezebel... Barney...

*Tragic, the clock had struck midnight in Judas' soul!*

**Did Jesus fall to the fate and will of man? Not a chance!** **21** The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him.

No one took His life... **He gave it!** According to the will and plan of God. From the moment Adam fell in the garden, God had a plan of redemption.

**He is a master who brings his mastery to our dark time when we see only doom around us.**

**Transcendent** Our Dad is above His creation. **Immanent** He is actively involved **within** His creation. **Eternal** Our Father has no beginning or ending. **Infinite** Our heavenly Daddy has no limitation in space.

**Immutable** God is not capable of nor susceptible to change. **Omniscience** ALL KNOWING. **Omnipotent** God is ALL powerful! **Omnipresent** God is everywhere present in the universe.

Many years ago Frederick Nolan was fleeing his enemies during the North African persecution. Hounded by his pursuers over hill and valley with no place to hide, he fell exhausted into a wayside cave expecting to be found. Awaiting his death, he saw a spider weaving a web. Within minutes, the little bug had woven a beautiful web across the mouth of a cave. The pursuers arrived and wondered if Nolan was hiding there; but they thought it impossible for him to have entered the cave without dismantling the web. And so they went on. Having escaped, Nolan emerged from his hiding place and proclaimed, "Where God is, a spider's web is like a wall. Where God is not, a wall is like a spider's web."

**Jesus in His famed sermon on the mount addressed "THE MOST DISOBEYED COMMAND"**

**IN MATTHEW CHAPTER 6 THREE TIMES** in 10 verses Jesus **COMMANDS** us not to worry...

Verse 25 **"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life"**

Verse 31 **"Therefore do not worry"**

Verse 34 **"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow"**

**No doubt** these commands are the most disobeyed in all the Scripture.

**OVER 400** times God's word commands us not to worry or be anxious.

**Church, worry is not a weakness, it's a sin!**

The word "**WORRY**" is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning to **strangle** or to **choke**. It **chokes** out all that is good!

**REMEMBER**, worry is **Irresponsible**, **irrelevant** **AND** **IRREVERENT**.

*Where is God in relation to your life? Fate will never determine the course of your life. If you follow him, you will never be crushed in the gears of history, though all Hell should assail you.*

This glory... of our Savior Jesus was set aside... As Paul says in Philipians "He made Himself Nothing" Phil. 2:7

**He stepped out of heaven and slipped into our shoes! He now understands us in a new way. He cries when we cry - laughs when we laugh - bleeds when we bleed.**