

Adult Sunday School – The Gospel of Mark  
Small Group Questions for February March 20, 2022

1. In Mark 14: 3-9 we have the story of Jesus being anointed in Bethany.

**Mark 14:3-9 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head.

<sup>4</sup> There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that?"

<sup>5</sup> For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her.

<sup>6</sup> But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.

<sup>7</sup> For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me.

<sup>8</sup> She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial.

<sup>9</sup> And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

2. What do you make of this? Are you disturbed, as the onlooker was, by the waste of the expensive ointment? Do you think it is appropriate or not? Why?
3. What do you make of the statement "For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them"?
4. Does this trouble you? What does "always" here imply? Can nothing be done? Does this inspire you to do more or make you feel helpless to do anything?
5. What do you think your reaction would be if you were there at this dinner? How would you have engaged Jesus? Would you have asked questions? Run away? Anointed Him?