

■ LIFE GROUP STUDY: “*Costly Devotion & Dark Conspiracy*” Mark 14:1–20

1. Key Thoughts (4–5)

- a) **Devotion and betrayal sit side-by-side in Mark 14.**
At the same table, one woman honors Jesus with extravagant love while Judas conspires to sell Him cheaply.
 - b) **The woman understood Jesus’ worth when the disciples did not.**
Her costly act revealed spiritual insight and worship that surpassed even Jesus’ closest followers.
 - c) **Jesus receives her act as preparation for His burial.**
Her gift becomes a prophetic moment pointing toward His imminent suffering and death.
 - d) **Judas’ betrayal exposes how proximity to Jesus does not guarantee devotion.**
He walked with Jesus for three years yet valued Him at the price of a slave.
 - e) **Jesus is fully aware and fully in control.**
He knows who will betray Him and willingly walks toward the cross according to God’s plan.
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2. Discussion Questions (6)

- a) Why do you think Mark places the woman’s anointing and Judas’ betrayal side-by-side? What contrast is He highlighting?
- b) The woman gave Jesus something extremely costly. What are examples today of “costly devotion” that honor Christ?
- c) Why do you think the disciples labeled her act as “waste”? What does this reveal about their (and often our) values?
- d) Judas walked closely with Jesus yet hardened his heart. What dangers exist for people who are “close to Jesus” outwardly but not inwardly?
- e) Jesus says the woman’s act will be told wherever the gospel is preached. Why does He elevate her so highly?

- f) How does Jesus' awareness of His betrayal (and His calm control over it) strengthen your trust in His sovereignty?
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3. Applications (3)

- a) **Choose worship over convenience.**

Ask the Lord to reveal an area of life where obedience or generosity has become "too costly," and surrender it in faith.

- b) **Examine your heart for misplaced values.**

Where might you be valuing temporary things more than the Lord? Invite God to realign your affections.

- c) **Practice intentional devotion this week.**

Plan one concrete act of worship, generosity, service, repentance, forgiveness, or prayer that reflects Jesus' worth in your life.

4. Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus,

You are worthy of our deepest devotion and our greatest treasure.

Help us see Your worth like the woman in Bethany saw it, clearly, joyfully, and sacrificially.

Protect our hearts from Judas-like complacency, distraction, or divided loyalty.

Give us courage to honor You when others do not, and faith to trust that You rule even when darkness seems to rise.

Lead us into worship, obedience, and love as we follow You to the cross and celebrate Your victory.

In Your Name we pray, Amen.