

Mark 14:1-31 –22 August 2021

“Making Your Ultimate Decision About Jesus”

Introduction

*Jesus Christ has come into Jerusalem for the last week of His earthly ministry & life to die for our sins

*Jesus is being examined (4 days) & leaving at night

*Jesus has his face like a flint set on the cross for the joy that comes just beyond it

*Those that’ve been exposed to Jesus are getting their final chances to decide how they’ll respond to Him

*There’s only a certain amount of time left for us each to decide what we’ll do with Jesus

*We can’t ignore Jesus; we decide who we think He is be the way we live our life

So today, here are 3 questions to answer when

“Making Your Ultimate Decision About Jesus”

1st Question to answer is: Will you be a worshipper? (Vs 1-11)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Sadducees wanted to kill Jesus in a Kosher way
2. There has become a division among those that have heard the message of salvation from Jesus
 - a. Read Matt 10:34-35a & 39
 - b. Those that exalt Christ & those that don't
3. Now in vs 3 we're introduced to Mary's worship of Jesus by anointing Him

Read Vs 3

1. Valuable myrrh (300 day's wage) showed both dedication & declaration
 - a. Dedication in that she's showing His worth to her (worship = worth ship)
 - b. Declaration in that she's anointing Him as the Messiah (the Anointed One)

2. Anointing is for setting someone apart
 - a. He's being set apart as in His coronation as King Messiah
 - b. He's being set apart as in preparation for entering into new life (not death)

Read Vs 4-5

1. John's Gospel tells us Judas Iscariot said this
2. ***Worship is a waste to the world***
 - a. Yes, the disciples had a mission to help the world, but the priority of the mission is to worship Christ
 - b. You can only help this dying world to the extent that you have the mind of Christ in you

Read Vs 6-7

1. Priorities of doing good, Jesus is highest priority
2. No end to the earthly help that people will need
 - a. If you're waiting for earthly priorities to end before turning to worship Jesus, you'll never get there.

Read Vs 8

1. Mary has faith believing what Jesus has been saying, that He's going to the cross to die
2. Notice she did "What she could"
 - a. We're not expected to change world, but God delights in those that serve w/ what they have
 - b. A worshipper will give of what they have

Read Vs 9

1. It's not the amount of money or time she spent that eternally recognized
2. It's her worship and devotion that are eternally written in the Word of God!

Read Vs 10-11

1. You're either pursuing earthly things, like Judas, or you're using the earthly things to pursue worship of Jesus Christ....no third choice
2. The self-interested, like Judas, will always have problems w/ people like Mary (Read John 12:6)

2nd Question to answer is: Will you be a betrayer? (Vs 12-25)

Read Vs 12-16

1. Jesus had pre-arranged an upper chamber of a house in Jerusalem for this final Passover meal.
2. Noticing a man carrying a water pitcher would have been unusual and easy to spot
 - a. This is strong evidence that Jesus eats the Passover meal on the Essene Passover which was one day earlier than the rest
 - i. See John 18:28, 19:14 for it being next day)

Read Vs 17-18

1. John 13:2 says Satan put it in Judas' heart to betray Jesus
 - a. For selfish reasons, that never did get rewarded that way Judas thought
 - b. **The price of betrayal is always higher than the reward of betrayal**

Read Vs 19-21

1. John 13:27 say that at this point Satan entered into Judas and Jesus dismissed him quickly

2. Judas will end up in despair & kill himself
3. (Repeat) - ***The price of betraying God is always higher than the reward of betraying God***
4. The 30 silver coins would look so good being offered to Judas
 - a. When the day comes for him to carry those silver coins, he realizes the weight of carrying the guilt is far heavier than the weight of the coins

Read Vs 22-24

1. Jesus took parts of the Passover meal and specifically applied it to Himself
2. Redemption of Israel from Egypt is a foreshadow of the redemption of humanity from this sinful world
3. Jesus has completed the old covenant
 - a. B/c it's complete He ushers in a new one
 - b. Read Jer 31:31-33

Read Vs 25

1. At this point Jesus stops not completing Passover
2. 4 cups – Sanctification, Deliverance, Redemption & Praise (Didn't drink Praise yet)

3rd Question to answer is: Where will you place your confidence? (Vs 26-31)

Read Vs 26

1. The wonderful discourse of John 14-17 happens here in the upper room of the Passover
2. All the great teachings of the Holy Spirit & abiding in the Vine
3. Place your confidence in the H.S. sent to us

Read Vs 27-28

1. He didn't say this to condemn them but to prepare them for the future
2. The scriptures must and will be fulfilled, you cannot change that
 - a. God's plan for the redemption of mankind and the judgement of sin WILL HAPPEN
 - b. Many think they can affect changes to thwart even the Anti-Christ to come....can't happen
3. Place your confidence in the plan of Christ

Read Vs 29-31

1. Peter wants to be this good, but he's not
2. Peter isn't just wrongfully putting confidence in self, he's also denying God's reveal truth from His Word
 - a. Written Word & the presence of the Word
3. Peter will go on to deny he even knows Jesus, but does repent and returns to the Lord for a life of service to the King
4. Place your confidence in the Word of God
5. **Will we have self-confidence in the moment or faith in God for the future**

Conclusion

That day is coming soon in which our ultimate decision about Jesus will be set in stone, it may come sooner than we think

1. Will you be a worshipper?

- a. Worshipping Jesus is a waste to the world
- b. Be like Mary and value Christ

2. Will you be a betrayer?

- a. The price of betrayal is always higher than the reward of betrayal

3. Where will you place your confidence?

- a. Confidence in self is an abomination to God
- b. Faith in God will never be disappointed

In conclusion, hear the story of two Chinese Christian girls during the Red Guard Era of 1966-1969

“The two Christian girls waited in the Chinese prison yard for the announced execution. A fellow prisoner who watched the scene from his prison cell described their faces as pale but beautiful beyond belief; infinitely sad but sweet. Humanly speaking, they were fearful. But

Chiu-Chin-Hsiu and Ho-Hsiu-Tzu had decided to submit to death without renouncing their faith.

Flanked by renegade guards, the executioner came with a revolver in his hand. It was their own pastor! He had been sentenced to die with the two girls. But, as on many other occasions in Church history, the persecutors worked on him, tempting him. They promised to release him if he would shoot the girls. He accepted.

The girls whispered to each other, then bowed respectfully before their pastor. One of them said, ‘Before you shoot us, we wish to thank you heartily for what you have meant to us. You baptized us, you taught us the ways of eternal life, you gave us holy communion with the same hand in which you now hold the gun.

You also taught us that Christians are sometimes weak and commit terrible sins, but they can be forgiven again. When you regret what you are about to do to us, do not despair like Judas, but repent like Peter. God bless you, and remember that our last thought was not one of indignation against your failure. Everyone passes through hours of darkness.

May God reward you for all the good you have done to us. We die with gratitude.’

They bowed again. The pastor's heart was hardened. He shot the girls. Afterwards, he was shot by the Communists.

(dc Talk, Jesus Freaks, Volume I, Martyrs, pp. 109-110)