

Responding

Mark 14:1-2 – The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are different feasts but are connected by the Exodus of Israel out of the Land of Egypt. The Passover is a meal that remembers a lamb slain so that death would Passover the house. The Feast of Unleavened Bread signified the removal of the yeast of Egypt. The Israelites were supposed to leave behind the remnant of Egypt. Yeast is commonly a symbol for sin, even a particular type of sin.

Based on these verses, what do you think of religious leaders and their observance of these feasts? How do we today approach spiritual moments like communion or baptism?

There is irony in these couple verses. Why do you think the religious leaders missed the message of Jesus even during the feasts?

How do we ensure that we “do” the actions of worship in a meaningful manner?

Mark 14:3-9 – This is a powerful scene. Take some time to reread this passage. Imagine the power of scent of the nard. This nard was likely imparted for India/Tibet region.

Why do you think that the woman did this? Why did some complain about the cost? Compare these two approaches to Jesus. Really think about them. Money has been a topic in the week leading up to Jesus’ death. Why?

Jesus foreshadows his death. What would you do if you knew you had one more day with Jesus? What would you do for him or with him?

Mark 14:10-11 – The religious leaders wanted to discretely arrest Jesus and Judas gave them this opportunity.

What would have driven Judas to betray Jesus? What would cause you to betray Jesus?

Jesus warned us to beware of the yeast of the Pharisees. Judas allowed the yeast to grow in his heart. What is the yeast of the Pharisees?