

Mark: Come Follow Me
Mark 14.1-11
October 30, 2022

This week, we turn a big page to the end of Mark's story. There's a lot in these last chapters, so use this guide as an aide to help you get into the text. Take on the questions *as you are able and have time*. You do not need to answer each one, so don't look at this sheet as an onerous homework assignment you'd rather not do. Please enjoy time in the Scriptures.

Pastor Eric

Share with your Group: Have you made your Christmas plans yet? Do you have a lot family obligations to contend with during the holidays?

Read straight through **Mark 14.1-11**. Set the stage by recalling what was said about the significance of Passover week in the lives of Jesus' contemporaries. In other words, what is the general setting here? Now take a few minutes to list out the various characters identified here and seek to understand where they each stand in regard to Jesus. Why are the chief priests and scribes so intent on murdering Jesus? Why is it important to them to achieve their plan by stealth?

This passage presents a wonderful opportunity to use your spiritual imagination. Imagine and describe the setting. Why do you think Mark doesn't tell us who this woman is? (If you answer that he didn't know, you flunk this part for taking the easy route). Seriously, see John 12 for a clear answer. If you were reclining around that table, how long would it have taken you to realize what was happening after the woman walked in and approached Jesus. Describe the increasing anxiety that fills the room.

Now analyze the situation a little. Why are "some" so indignant? And who are the "some?" What's the crux of their concerns? Honestly, do you share their concern? Analyze Jesus' strong response beginning in verse 6. What's his demeanor as he states it? What reasons does Jesus offer as to why her objectors should back down?

Imagine you're Mary. What motivates you to do this? Why are you taking this action now? Why do you feel a more profound love and appreciation for Jesus than others appear to feel? Finally, why are you willing to empty yourself of such a valuable possession? Describe how Jesus is worth?

Read verse 8 again. What could Jesus possibly mean when he says that Mary has anointed Jesus for his burial? Does Mary know this? In other words, does he pour out the perfume consciously aware that she was anointing Jesus for his burial?

“She has recognized Jesus as the Messiah and has expressed her faith in him and love for him in an extravagant manner.”

Craig Evans, *Word Biblical Commentary*

How easy, or difficult, would it be for you to give up something that is worth tens of thousands of dollars for the sole purpose of worshiping Jesus?

Draw a comparison between Mary and Judas. How does Judas view Jesus? What motivates him to turn over Jesus? When he meets up with the delighted religious officials, what do you imagine the conversation to be?

It was noted that Mary’s love for Jesus was **personal**, it came from the core of her being. Her love for Jesus was also **real** in that it expressed itself in her practical life. Her love was also **passionate**, as in resilient. Take some space to reflect on each of these in relationship to your own love for Jesus. Do you think you love Jesus that much? (You may share this or choose to keep it private).

“Of all, therefore, that are dear to you, let Jesus alone be your special beloved.”

Thomas a’Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*

Overall, what did you learn about Jesus? How should you respond to what you learned about Jesus?