

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. *Enjoy discovering more about Him!*

## "SOLD OUT OR POURED OUT?" | MARK 14: 1-11 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

### WARM-UP QUESTION:

If money was no concern, what perfume or cologne would you buy?

### *"The Leaders Plotted" Mark 14: 1-2*

The religious leaders were seeking a way to arrest and kill Jesus in secret. **What does that show about their hearts? Why do many people still see Jesus as a threat to their way of life and control?**

### *"Judas Sold Out" Mark 14: 10-11*

Judas meets with the religious leaders to help them arrest Jesus away from the crowd at the right time. **What does it show that Judas betrayed Jesus for money? What are ways people today betray Jesus?**

### *"Mary Poured Out" Mark 14: 3-9*

A woman comes to Jesus and pours out expensive perfume on Jesus and He honors her costly gift and rebukes her critics. **What is challenging about this woman's example? What would it look like for you to pour out your love for Jesus?**

### REFLECTION QUESTION:

Mark contrasts the greed and self-preservation of the religious leaders and Judas with the sacrificial love and honor a woman gives to Jesus, challenging all to think about their attitude towards Him. **Have you been trying to preserve control, or have you been surrendering to Jesus' authority lately? What tempts you to betray Jesus? What are ways you can pour out your love for Jesus this week? Pray that God gives you a heart of worship to honor Him for all He has done.**

**Jesus Journal: Write down at least one thing about Jesus that impressed you in the passage and message.**

## Sold Out or Poured Out?

### I. Announce:

- A. Welcome to those watching online 10am. And HS in w/us today.
- B. Slide1-5 Shane: MOMs. Foundations. Women's. Men's. Nepal Trip.
- C. Slide6 Office & Appointments: Closed tomorrow for Holiday. Ministry groups are still meeting
- D. Slide7 Church Prayer: Join us *next* Sunday at 1:30p in the Agape Room.
- E. \*Additional Seating - We'll be moving our *additional seating* at our 10am service to the Fellowship Hall *beg* next Sun, Sept 7.
- F. Prayer: John Stott said, "*The thing I know will give me **the deepest joy** - namely, to be **alone and unhurried** in the presence of God, aware of His presence, my heart open to worship Him - is often **the thing I least** want to do.*" :( Lord, make it our utmost desire.

### II. Slide8 Intro: Sold Out or Poured Out?

- A. The best way to see the effect of **contrast** is by examining a **b/w photo**. Slide9  
In fact, b/w images are pretty blah without a good amount of **contrast**.  
It's the **contrast** between the subject and the background, light and dark, black blacks and white whites, that makes the subject stand out.  
1. Here we have **Jesus** giving us one of **His high contrast stories**.
- B. Slide10 CM we are *fulfilling scripture today* by reading this text (see if you can find it, vs.9).
- C. We are on Wednesday, *before* the Passover meal on Thursday night.
- D. Big Idea: Encounters with Jesus *reveal the heart* ... *some* plot against Him, *some* sell Him out, *but* true disciples *pour themselves out* in love for Him.
- E. Outline: **The Leaders Plotted. Judas Sold Out. Mary Poured Out** (of Laz, & Martha).
- F. **Women** in Mark's gospel is a substantial theme. James Edward said, Women play and especially important role in the gospel of Mark. Not only are they mentioned frequently, but the highest acclaim of Jesus in the 2nd gospel goes to women. 15 of the 22 mentions of women appear in unusually positive context. The **value** and

**dignity** of *women and girls* are signified by the fact that Jesus heals them. In their **following** and **serving** of Jesus in the Christian fellowship women are models of discipleship. In special instances they play prominent roles, even preeminent roles, receiving the highest praise that Jesus gives in the gospel. On 2 occasions, women appear in the heart of *the sandwich technique* as the ideal of faith and devotion. The woman with a hemorrhage is **a model of faith** for Jarius the synagogue president. And the Syrophenician woman is **a model of faith for all outsiders**. The widow in the temple is praised for **giving more than anyone else** her whole life. And above all, the anointing at Bethany is so exemplary that the proclamation of the gospel in the world is a commemoration of her act.

1. Once again in Mark, we have an amazing lady in front of us. A woman we should **all** seek to **emulate**. In John's parallel account this is Mary, sister of Lazarus, mentioned 3 times in the gospels, always at the feet of Jesus.
2. If you're a **teenager in the room**, looking for a model to follow here's one for you. If you're a **parent in the room** and you wanna put forth a model to follow for your kids, here's a model. **Because** this is an example of what happens when **one's heart is enthralled with Jesus!**

G. Here once again **Mark** makes another **sandwich**. Starts with a story, interrupts it with another story, **and** then come backs to the story (maybe you have friends that talk like that?). **Actually**, he does it *intentionally*, **not** that he can't keep a thought.

1. He's laying emphasis on the middle story, the story in-between the story. To draw a **contrast** (here between Mary & chief priests/scribes, and Judas). John tells us Mary's story was 6 days earlier, but placed here!
2. This is the same story in Mt & Jn, **not** Luke (diff woman/sinner. Diff house/Pharisee).

### III. Slide 11a **THE LEADERS PLOTTED (1-2)** Chief Priests, Scribes **Read**

A. The chief priests and scribes *were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him*.

B. **Heart Posture: Fear**, control, self-preservation.

1. They would rather **kill** the Messiah than **lose their grip on power**.

C. Some are more concerned with **control** than **truth**.

- D. Do you see Jesus as **a threat**? A threat to: your *control*, your clinging to power, your finances, your plans, your dreams, your power, your Friday and Saturday night fun, your lifestyle, your desires or cravings?
- E. Slide11b Application: Religion without love for Christ becomes *cold calculation*. We must ask: Do I seek to *preserve control*, or *Surrender* to Jesus' authority?

#### IV. Slide12a JUDAS SOLD OUT (10-11) Read

- A. Judas went to betray Jesus and they promised to give him money.
- B. Heart Posture: Greed, disillusionment, misplaced priorities.
1. He traded eternal treasure for temporary gain.
- C. Judas didn't recognize Christ's value so *he sought an opportunity to betray Him*. Judas sold out, for 30 pieces of silver.
1. Some sell Him out today for: 30 minutes of porn; 30 minutes of sex; one night of fun; or cheating at school or work to get that approval or that raise.
- D. What motivated Judas' betrayal? 1st Luke says, satan entered him. 2nd Acts 2&4 say it was part of God's pre-ordained plan. 3rd Mt says it was greed that motivated him Mt.26:15. 4th here Mark adds Judas is accountable, out of his own will/initiative *he went to betray him*.
- E. Application: Betrayal isn't just denial with words, it's when we trade Christ for comfort, pleasure, or money.
1. We all face the temptation to sell Him out for something cheaper.
  2. A child offered a candy bar and a diamond will almost always pick the candy.
  3. Slide12b Judas traded eternal treasure for instant gratification.

#### V. Slide13a MARY POURED OUT (3-9) Read

- A. At this party: The host, Simon a former leper Jesus healed. Lazarus, who was already raised from the dead. The disciples are present.

B. Mary **broke** the alabaster flask **and poured** perfume (*pure nard/Nepal, very costly, all of it*) on **Jesus**.

C. **Heart Posture: Love**, loyalty, sacrifice.

1. She gave her best, knowing Jesus was worthy.

D. **An engagement ring** - No one calls it *wasteful* to spend months of wages on **love**. Mary's gift wasn't **waste** ... **but worship**. [they should have been asking, "*why so little was spent on Jesus!*"]

E. **Application:** Love for Jesus is **extravagant**, **misunderstood** *by others* **but always honored** *by Christ*. The measure of devotion is **not cost** **but sacrifice/love**.

F. (3,4) Mary's perfume wasn't *a waste* - it was *love poured out*.

G. This seems on the surface pragmatically and mathematically **a waste!** Why would you give someone that is *going to die* this much money?

1. **But the love of God**, **trumps** love of **Neighbor**. **The love of God informs** the love of neighbor. **The love of God inspires** the love of neighbor.

a) And you'll even **love the poor** better if you **love Jesus**, because your heart begins to change.

2. Problem: **The disciples heart** had not caught up with their **confession** yet

3. **Jesus raised Mary's** brother from the dead, **and** she's pretty excited about that (you don't fist bump a person that does that for you).

4. **Slide13b** The people who are getting the most **joy** at other faith, are people **putting the most into it**. *Half hearted religion* will make you miserable. (just ask: *the chief priest, the scribes, the sadducees, the Pharisees*).

H. Mary's perfume wasn't *a waste* - it was *love poured out*.

I. *Our mission is not to eradicate poverty but to minister to people in the midst of poverty*. (Rohingya, I have to choose weekly yes or no in helping them).

J. (6) **Leave her alone** - *Jesus quick to her defense*. Rom.8:33,34 NLT *Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ*

*Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.*

K.(8) Mary was powerless, as she couldn't go to the Sanhedrin and stop what they're about to do to Jesus, but *she did what she could*.

L. She didn't come just to *celebrate and adore* Me. She came to *anoint my body for burial*.

M. **Illust:** Cheap Betrayal vs. Costly Love.

1. Think of the difference between a **pawnshop** and a **museum**:

In a **pawnshop**, priceless items are *sold cheap for quick cash*.

In a **museum**, treasures are *preserved and displayed with honor*.

2. Judas and the leaders ran a **pawnshop**, selling Jesus for profit.

Mary opened *a museum of love*, honoring Him with her best.

N. **2 women were commended:** the widow in ch.12 gave 2 pennies. Here Mary gave a years wage. *It's not amount, but sacrifice*.

1. I doubt Mary ever *regretted* doing what she did. *Because* what she did Jesus said was *beautiful/kalos*, and there's no price tag on that!

2. Mary saw Jesus as *Kalos* (good, or intrinsically **beautiful**) *not just useful*.

a) If you only see Jesus as **useful** (a ticket out of hell) you will not lead a sacrificial life. *See Him as beautiful*.

3. Do you see just Jesus as **useful**, as Judas did?

a) **Useful:** He's a ticket out of hell, fire insurance for your life, a genie in a bottle - He's there when you get in a pinch. A **utilitarian** relationship (designed to be *useful or practical* rather than *attractive*).

4. I wonder if Judas was the first to say, *I wasn't getting fed at Jesus' church?* (3 years best teaching at Christ's seminary). *It's the heart*.

O. **End:** Jesus notes all of your acts of devotion. Nothing goes unnoticed.



1. Your **financial offerings**, **are not** a waste of money. Your **hospitality**, **is not** a waste of your resources. Your **time spent with a friend**, **is not** a waste of time.

P. **Slide13c** Appropriate response to **His Extravagant Love** is **Extravagant Worship!**

Q. We are **all responding today** (no one is neutral). So may God grant us grace to whole-hearted worship.

1. Isaac Watts, "The Wonderful Cross"

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

R. **Conclusion:**

1. **The Leaders plotted** (had hearts of **fear**). **Judas sold out** (had a heart of **greed**). **Mary poured out** (had a heart of **love**).
2. **Some gave Jesus up, but Mary gave Jesus everything.**
  - a) Which story will **your life** tell?

S. Keywords: love, worship, sold out, poured out.

T. **Now this was a unique situation.** You don't have to go drain your bank account. The point is the whole-hearted worship of Jesus Christ.  
**But** the text does cause us to reflect ... ***Am I all in?***