

Mark 14

Lesson for Sunday, September 3, 2023

SUMMARY: This chapter records the events before, during and after Jesus's agony in Gethsemane.

1. Events Preceding Gethsemane (vs. 1-31)
 - a. The plots to kill Jesus (vs. 1-2, 10-11)
 - b. The preparation (vs. 3-9)
 - c. The Passover meal (vs. 12-26)
 - d. The predictions (vs. 27-31)
2. Events Occurring in Gethsemane (vs. 32-52)
 - a. The agony of Jesus (vs. 32-42)
 - b. The arrest of Jesus (vs. 43-49)
 - c. The abandonment of Jesus (vs. 50-52)
3. Events Following Gethsemane (vs. 53-72)
 - a. Jesus is denounced by His foes (vs. 55-65)
 - b. Jesus is denied by His follower (vs. 53-54, 66-72)

INTRODUCTION: *This lesson is adapted from an outline in the Jerry Vines Study Bible.*

- ⇒ Have you ever fallen in love? Love will make you do some crazy things! *Ask class members to share some how they behaved unusual when they fell in love...*
- ⇒ We are close to wrapping up Mark's Gospel. This means we are getting close to the events of the cross and empty tomb.
- ⇒ In Mark 14, we see a woman who expressed her love for Jesus in a very unusual and magnificent way. This woman's act of love is a challenge to the followers of Jesus today.
- ⇒ We all say we love Jesus, but how do we show that love to others?

BIBLE STUDY:

1. The Woman's Devotion (vs. 3)
 - a. The setting was the home of Simon the leper. It is safe to assume that Simon had been healed by Jesus.
 - i. This is the only time Simon is mentioned in the Scripture.
 - ii. But there is the known fact that lepers were outcasts in those times. The fact that he was hosting a dinner at his home implies that he no longer was sick.
 - iii. The implication is that this man had at one time been healed by Jesus.
 - b. John's gospel helps us identify the woman who is at the center of this text. It is Mary of Bethany (John 12:3), the sister of Martha and Lazarus.
 - c. During the meal, Mary comes and pours an entire bottle of expensive perfume on the head of Jesus, as well as His feet. John also tells us that she wiped His feet with her hair.
 - d. First, notice the cost.
 - i. Verse 5 tells us the perfume cost more than 300 denarii, about what a common laboring man would make in a year.
 - ii. It was a red-tinted ointment drawn from a particular plant in India, the kind of perfume only the very wealthy could afford.
 - e. What would cause a woman to do such a thing? *Allow for some discussion...*
 - i. Mary probably would have answered, "Because I love Him."
 - ii. This is the essence of Christianity: falling in love with the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - iii. This is what Jesus asked us for in Matthew 22: "Love the Lord with all your heart..."
 - f. Love is not something we simply receive, it also involves giving. Love is costly.
 - i. Do you love Jesus? What have you given Him?
 - ii. Have you given Him your best? Have you sacrificed to give to Him?
 - iii. Has your love for Jesus cost you anything at all?

2. The Disciple's Reaction (vs. 4-5)
 - a. There's one in every crowd! In this crowd there appeared to be more than one!
 - b. Verse 4 tells us they were indignant. This means they were very displeased.
 - i. It sounds like something the Pharisees would say!
 - ii. But Matthew's account (26:8-9) identifies the complainers as disciples.
 - iii. John (12:4-5) identifies Judas as the chief instigator of the complaint department.
 - c. Think of the irony: Those who professed to love Jesus the most were the first to criticize this woman's demonstration of love for Him. Their motive was that this was a waste of a valuable resource.
 - d. But John helps uncover their true motive in John 12:4.
 - i. The disciples proclaim that the ointment could have been sold and used to provide food for many of the poor. Sounds noble!
 - ii. John points out that they didn't actually care for the poor.
 - e. Discuss:
 - i. Are you ever critical of others commitment to the Lord?
 - ii. Has anyone ever been critical of your commitment to Jesus?
 - iii. Why is our first reaction often to criticize?
3. The Lord's Emotion (vs. 6-9)
 - a. This must have been a deeply emotional scene for Jesus.
 - b. First, Jesus felt the grief in His heart at the response of the disciples and the carnality that they displayed. He immediately responds with, "Leave her alone."
 - c. But Jesus also must have felt overwhelming gratitude at the loving act that Mary had just performed. In verse 6, Jesus refers to it as "good" which means in the Greek a noble and beautiful work.
 - d. Then Jesus makes a profound point (vs. 8): "She has done what she could."
 - i. She couldn't do everything, but she could do something.
 - ii. Among all the followers gathered there that day, Mary got closer to the heart of Jesus and what His cross is about than any of the rest.
 - e. Interesting point: Every time Mary is mentioned in the Bible, she is at the feet of Jesus.
 - i. Mary understood that Jesus was about to die and be buried, and she was saying in this beautiful act, "I want to have a part."
 - ii. She was anointing His body for burial (vs. 8) and Jesus commended the loving nature of her deed.
 - f. Jesus also commended the lasting nature of what she had done (vs. 9).
 - i. Jesus said her story would never be forgotten.
 - ii. Is it true? We are here talking about her over 2000 years later!

DISCUSSION:

- ⇒ Have you done what you could? You can't do everything, but you can do something.
- ⇒ You can't win all the lost people in the world, but you can win one.
- ⇒ You can't comfort all the lonely people in the world, but you can encourage a few.
- ⇒ When Christians do what they can for Christ, their service can be transformed by the Lord.
- ⇒ Do what you can for Jesus.