

I. Misunderstood - Mark 14:3-5

1. Bethany (**verse 3**)
 - home of Simon the Leper
- Rea
 - this is recorded in Mark as if they all knew him, there is no other record of him in Scripture
 - “reclining” - on a lounge chair propped up on one arm
2. The woman
 - A. Brought in an alabaster jar - a long-necked flask
 - B. Broke the jar - the neck
 - C. Poured the perfume on Jesus’ head
 - D. Pure nard - expensive - “very”
3. What is her motive?
4. Jesus is “Messiah” which means “anointed” one
5. The apostles are seen as those who make these comments (**verses 4-5**)
 - Rea
 - not told that it is the apostles but 6-9 implies that - be careful how far you go with an “implication”
 - if it is the same anointing as at John 12 - then Judas is the loudest one
6. The problem
 - the cost
- Rea
 - how many churches have argued over money - and this is too expensive?
- Rea
 - the woman did not seem to care how much it costs - love is extravagant
7. Two opinions:
 - A. The world sees this as wasteful
 - B. Jesus sees it appropriate and right
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Discuss possible other motives beyond the money - pride, jealousy over attention given to this woman rather than the apostles
 2. Knee jerk reaction at church is often “how much does it cost?”
 - discuss why this is and why it should not be so
 - I’ve heard people talk about missions as a waste
 3. Are birthdays - extravagant? - a waste?
 4. Getting a “low priced” preacher is a common mistake
 - discuss paying staff
 5. A random woman?? Or do you think they knew her?
 6. Why should they care - it wasn’t their money?

II. Honored - Mark 14:6-9

1. Leave her alone (**verses 6-7**)
 - she has done a beautiful thing
- Rea
 - contrast two attitudes - “wasteful” (the crowd) and “beautiful” (Jesus)
2. Jesus addressed the “poor”
 - you will always have the poor
3. She did what she could (**verses 8-9**)
 - Rea
 - there is a sermon in that -whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your

might

-she is preparing me for my burial - anointing the body was a burial custom - she may not have known He was to be crucified... she may have done it unknowingly (that may be the sense)

-just as at His birth the wise men also brought spices

4. Jesus' analysis:

Rea -which is really all that matters

A. Truly I tell you - this is important

B. Wherever the gospel is proclaimed

C. Throughout the world

D. This will be told

E. In memory of her

Rea -her legacy - she will be remembered for this

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Remembered for her love, not the cost of the perfume

2. Is this an example of love?

3. Discuss the two options for their use of money:

A. Lavish it extravagantly on Jesus

B. Give it to the poor

4. Discuss - is buying your wife flowers a waste of money? After all, they will just wilt

5. Discuss - is building a grand sanctuary a waste of money? After all, it's just a building

-I've noticed, that being frugal with money for God's church (building) is good/ right, but being frugal with our own homes is okay

6. So much truth comes out when we begin to discuss money

III. Betrayed - Mark 14:10-11

1. Judas betrays Jesus (**verse 10**)

2. Why did Judas betray?

-greed? - the money "wasted"

-forcing Jesus' hand?

Rea -was he disappointed in Jesus? And Jesus message?

3. His enemies are "delighted" (**verse 11**)

Rea -it is hard to imagine someone would be so pleased at the demise of Jesus. There are many who are not "rooting for" His kingdom

4. They promise money

-compare the 30 pieces of silver at Matthew 26:15

-they look for an opportunity

Rea 5. In the same way the devil is a roaring lion - looking for an opportunity to trip us up

-as individuals

-he wants (also) to trip up the local church - or its leadership

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Discuss loyalty vs disloyalty - loyalty is a vanishing commodity

2. Discuss how money often brings out the worst in people - how many marriages have shipwrecked over money

3. Discuss trust -

-Jesus knew that Judas would do this, so why didn't He kick him out of the

- apostle band? If he was the apostle treasurer he was trusted with money
4. Do you think some of your friends would be “delighted” if you failed? - sad but true

III. Committed - Mark 14:32-36

1. Gethesemane - Mount of Olives (**verse 32**)
2. The drama unfolds
 - sit here
 - I'll go on further
 - Rea -wants to pray alone... but not totally
3. Peter, James and John (**verses 33-34**)
 - Rea -prayer partners?
4. Distressed and troubled
 - Rea -I thought prayer was supposed to be all sweetness and light
 - overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death
 - Rea -that's a lot of sorrow
5. Their role - “keep watch”
 - Rea -“keep watch” against soldiers or against the temptation to go to sleep?
6. A bit further (**verses 35-36**)
 - fell to the ground
 - “if possible”
 - Rea Jesus struggles with the will of God... not to know it but to do it
7. “Abba” - Father
8. He asks God - pointedly to take this cup away (verse 36)
 - Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 - 1. Discuss the idea that Christianity is easy - compared to this
 - 2. Why take the disciples? - what aid were they? - were they supposed to be an aid, or was this a teaching situation?
 - 3. What about the idea that Jesus prayer (verse 36) was not answered
 - 4. The way of God is not always an easy way

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