

Mark 14

Mark 14.1-2 – Wednesday of the last week

V1 – What great Jewish feast was taking place at this time? Feast of Passover

- It was two days off, meaning that *Mark 14* began on Wednesday of the week of the crucifixion
- What was the attitude of the Jewish leaders?** They wanted to take Jesus by stealth, and these were supposed to be the people of God!

V2 – Why didn't they just have him arrested at this time? There were too many people in Jerusalem

- Josephus reported in *Wars*, II, 14.3, that in 65 A.D. there were 3 million people in Jerusalem for the Passover Feast
- So the city was packed with people, and there could have been a riot

Mark 14.3-9

Note: The account in *Luke 7.36-50* refers to a different event

- The account in *John 12.1-8* indicates that the Passover and the Feast of the Unleavened Bread were actually two feasts in Judaism, although they were closely tied together in the thinking of the Jews

V3 – Whose home was Jesus visiting at this time? Simon the leper (possibly already healed by Jesus, but this could have been a nickname)

- Who came to anoint Jesus?** A woman
- What did she use for the anointing?** Alabaster bottle of pure nard
- See a standard encyclopedia or Internet search engine for a picture of alabaster
- Nard, spikenard = a perfume from India
- The alabaster jar would have been sealed; the woman broke the seal, not the bottle
- What did the woman do with the nard?** Poured it over the head of Jesus

V4 – What were people complaining about? Why was this money used that way?

V5 – What particularly upset some people? The money could have been used to help the poor people

- What was the worth of the perfume?** About 300 denarii, about a year's wages, very expensive
- Read John 12.4-6** – Judas was really stealing money from the treasury of the 12 apostles and Jesus
- Many times today we see movie stars who claim to be so concerned about the poor, but these stars and media figures are living in huge mansions
- They drive the most expensive cars and fly in private jets
- But it is good "public relations" to be concerned about the poor

V6 – What was the reaction of Jesus to those who objected? Leave her alone; she has done a good deed

V7 – What statement did Jesus make about the poor? They will be with us always

- Remember the "Great Society" program of President Lyndon B. Johnson – he was going to

eliminate all poverty in the U.S.

-A great lesson here: we will never completely stamp out poverty, regardless of how much money the government spends on the problem

-President Reagan said: Some people want to sleep on sewer grates

-Remember the drunk in Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* – his aunt took the drunk in and cleaned him up and tried to help him get his life straightened out, but in a few months, he was back to his drinking again and was still a drunk

-**What is our first obligation to the poor? Read Galatians 6.10** – to help poor members of the Lord's church first and then others, if we have the means to do so

-**What did Jesus say about himself on this point?** He would not be with them always

V 8 – **What great statement did Jesus make about this woman?** She had done what she could

-That is all the Lord expects of us

-Some men cannot speak in public, but they can serve the church in other ways

-Some women cannot teach the Ladies' Bible class, but they can serve in other ways

-Remember the parable of the talents – God only holds us accountable for using the talents that we have – the two talent man was not held accountable for 5 talents

V 9 – **What prophecy did Jesus make about this woman?** As long as the gospel would be preached to the world, people would remember the good deed done by this woman

-Here we are today 2000 years later, on the other side of the world, and we are studying what this woman did

Mark 14.10-11

V 10 – **What person did Mark mention next?** Judas Iscariot

-**Why?** Because in John's account, Judas was the main one upset by this woman

-**Who joined forces here?** The Jewish leaders (*v 1*) and Judas (evil people joining together to destroy Jesus)

-**Why would Jesus need to be betrayed?** Because there were no photographs in the First Century; there must have been some confusion about his appearance

-**Read Isaiah 53.2** (the only verse in the Bible that gives any indication about how Jesus looked)

-**What do we learn about the appearance of Jesus from the words of Isaiah?** It would be nothing special, nothing that distinguish him from other people of his day

V 11 – **What was the reaction of the scribes to Judas' offer?** Happy to hear of it

-So one of the original apostles defected and decided to betray Jesus the Messiah

-Maybe for money, but maybe because his image of Jesus as the Messiah was different from what he saw unfolding

Mark 14.12-16

V 12 – This would have been on Thursday of the last week

-Interesting that the Passover lamb was killed on this day

-It is interesting that Mark brought this up, since Jesus was also going to be the Passover lamb

-**What event was this feast celebrating?** The Passover of the Lord during the tenth plague

-The life of the firstborn would be taken, if there was no blood of the lamb on the doorpost

-What question did the apostles have? Where should we celebrate the Passover?

V 13 – What did Jesus tell them? Find a man in the city with a pitcher of water and follow him

-Would there have been many men carrying pitchers of water? No, the women usually carried the pitchers of water (men carried wine-skins)

V 14 – What were they to say to the man? Where is the room for Jesus and his disciples?

V 15 – What kind of room would they get? A large well-furnished upper room

-Preparing for the Passover took a lot of planning: bitter herbs, water, wine, getting the lamb from the temple, roasting it

-Some commentaries suggest that it might have been at the home of John Mark himself

-See: *Acts 1.13, 12.12* – John Mark had a large house in Jerusalem

V 16 – What did the apostles find? Everything just as Christ had told them

Mark 14.17-21

V 17 – This would have been Thursday evening – notice the use of “12” – it was about to be reduced to 11

V 18 – What news did Jesus break to them? That one of the apostles would betray him to the Jews

V 19 – What was the reaction of the apostles to that news? Shocked, grieved, each one asked if it was him – they were horrified at the crime that was about to be committed by one of them

V 20 – How would they identify the one who would betray Jesus? He would dip his bread with Christ into the bowl of bitter herbs – **Read John 13.26-27** – it was Judas Iscariot

V 21 – What statement did Jesus make about the man who would betray him? It would have been better if he had not been born (what a terrifying thing for Jesus to say about someone)

-So much power in that statement

-Do an Internet search and find a copy of Da Vinci, *The Last Supper*

Mark 14.22-26

V 22 – How did Jesus begin the last supper? By breaking the bread, had a prayer (as always, we see a prayer before they ate)

-What did the bread represent? The body of Christ

-It was not literally his body, since he was still in his body

-The Catholic doctrine of transubstantiation is a false doctrine

V 23 – What came next? The fruit of the vine, also giving thanks (so we follow the same procedure today)

V 24 – What did the fruit of the vine represent? The blood that Jesus would shed for mankind

V 25 – **What prediction did Jesus make at this time?** He would not drink it with them again until he drank with them in the kingdom
-**Great lessons there?** The kingdom was very close; he would be with them in spirit during the Lord's Supper (which is why we call it "communion" today)
-They probably sang a hymn of praise from the book of *Psalms* (*Psalms 115-118* were usually sung)

Mark 14.27-31

V 27 – **What prediction did Jesus make about the apostles?** At one time or another, each one would fall away, like sheep without a shepherd
-Jesus quoted from *Zechariah 13.7*

V 28 – **His next prediction?** That he would go to Galilee and meet them there (their home province)

V 29 – **Who spoke up next?** Peter (as usual)

- What did he brag about?** He would never fall away
- An observation over the years: the person who says that he will never fall away from the church is almost always the one who does.
- It is dangerous to brag about that; we must all remember that we can fall into sin and be lost
- Read 1 Corinthians 10.12**

V 30 – **But what did Jesus predict about Peter?** That before a rooster crowed twice, Peter would have denied Jesus three times
-**In fact, what did Peter claim?** He would even die for Christ
-Such arrogance, pride, and too much self-confidence

Mark 14.32-38

V 32 – Gethsemane was a small garden, probably for raising olive trees, probably walled
-**What instructions did Jesus give his apostles?** To wait there for him

V 33 – **Whom did Jesus take with him a little ways into the garden?** Peter, James, John
-**What was the mental state of the Lord?** Very distressed and troubled
-**Why?** Because death of the cross was just a few hours away

V 34 – He was full of grief

- What did he tell them to do?** Wait there for him

V 35 – **Where did he go?** A little further into the garden

- What did he do next?** Begin praying
- What was his prayer?** That death on the cross might be taken away, if it was the Father's will

V 36 – **What did he call his father in heaven?** Abba, father – Abba = a term of endearment

V 37 – **What did Jesus do after he finished praying?** Came back out of the garden
-**What did he find?** Peter sleeping

-How long had his prayer been? About one hour

V 38 – **What should Peter have been doing?** Praying that he would not be led into temptation

Mark 14.39-42

V 39 – **What did Jesus do next?** Went back into the garden and prayed the same thing again

-We can ask God again and again for the same thing

V 40 – **What happened after this prayer?** He again found the apostles asleep

V 41 – This happened a third time

-What had happened while they were in the garden? Judas had made arrangements for the betrayal

V 42 – **Who was very near to them?** Judas with the guards

Mark 14.43-50

V 43 – **Who came up immediately?** Judas, with chief priests, scribes, elders (Old Testament)

-Sounds like a mob that they got together in a hurry

-What did the other people bring with them? Clubs and swords

V 44 – **What was going to be the sign that Judas would use to identify Jesus?** A kiss

-How ironic – betrayed with a kiss (normally a sign of love)

-It is just incredible that Judas could have betrayed Jesus – the other apostles trusted him so much that they had made him the treasurer

-It should be a great warning for us to be so careful about falling away ourselves (once saved, always saved?)

V 45 – Judas identified Jesus for the guards

V 46 – They arrested Jesus

V 47 – **What did one of the disciples do?** Drew a sword, cut off the ear of the slave of the high priest

-Read John 18.10-11 – it was Peter

-Why didn't Mark give Peter's name? Probably when Mark was written, Peter was already dead, so maybe out of respect for Peter

V 48 – **What attitude did Jesus have in v 48?** They did not need to use violence on him

V 49 – **Why not?** He had taught in the temple every day – if he had wanted to overthrow the Jewish nation by violence, he would have done it then

-Why had all of this happened? To fulfill the Scriptures

V 50 – **What happened to the disciples of Jesus?** They all ran away

-They did not want to stay around to get arrested themselves (just as Christ had predicted)

Mark 14.51-52

V 51 – A very unusual passage

- The best theory: since the house of Mark's mother was a meeting place for the disciples in Jerusalem (*Acts 1.13, 12.12*), it is possible that Mark was sleeping in the house during the Lord's Supper
- If so, all the commotion woke him up
- He was wrapped with his bed clothes around him and followed the crowd into the garden

V 52 – This must have been very humiliating for Mark, but it might have been his way of saying, "I was there – that man you heard about was me"

Mark 14.53-60

V 53 – **Where was Jesus taken at this time?** To the high priest

V 54 – **Who followed him at a distance?** Peter

- What did he do?** Started warming himself at a fire with officers and others
- Great lesson: Peter's downfall began by warming himself at Satan's fire

V 55 – **What problem did the Sanhedrin have?** Getting someone to testify against Jesus

V 56 – **What was the situation with the "witnesses"?** Their testimony did not agree
-*Deuteronomy 19.15* said that at least two witnesses had to agree on what happened before someone could be punished

V 57 – Someone gave more testimony against Jesus

V 58 – **What was the testimony?** That he said that he would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days (a garbled version of *Matthew 24*)

V 59 – But even on this point, they did not agree

V 60 – **What did the high priest want to know?** Was Jesus not going to make a reply to the charges?

Mark 14.61-65

V 61 – **Why did Jesus keep silent?** Because it was God's will anyway, so it would have done no good to protest

- What question did the high priest ask?** Are you the Messiah?

V 62 – **Answer of Jesus?** Yes – then he quoted *Daniel 7.13*, which was used in *Matthew 24.30* and *Mark 13.26*

- Notice that the high priest would see this happen – meaning: this was apocalyptic language for the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., not language for the end of the world

V 63 – **What did the high priest do?** Tore his clothes (sign of great mourning in the Old Testament)
-Of course, they always tore their clothes along the seams, so that they could be sown back together quickly

V 64 – **What was the conclusion of the people there?** Jesus was guilty of death
-**Why?** Because he claimed to be the son of God

V 65 – **What did they begin to do to Jesus?** Spit on him (awful), blindfold him, and beat him with their fists
-Thought question: **Why did they blindfold him?** Maybe to keep from looking into his eyes
-Fourteen irregularities in the Old Law have been recorded about the crucifixion
-See standard Bible commentaries for this information

Mark 14.66-72

V 66 – **Who came up to Peter at the fire?** A servant girl

V 67 – **What did she say to Peter?** That he was one of the disciples of Jesus

V 68 – **What was his response?** He denied it, left the area

V 69 – The servant girl did this a second time

V 70 – Peter denied it again
-A bystander again said that Peter was one of the disciples of Jesus

V 71 – Peter denied it a third time
-**In fact, what did Peter do for the third denial?** Began to curse and swear and claimed to know nothing about Jesus

V 72 – The rooster crowed a second time (3:00 a.m. on Friday morning)
-**What did Peter remember?** What Jesus had said
-**What was the reaction of Peter?** He began to cry and weep
-**If only Peter and Jesus knew about the denial, then how did Mark know about it and put it into his gospel?** Peter must have told him
-**Why would Peter have told something this embarrassing?** To show how deep the grace of God is, that he could be forgiven for something as terrible as this

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