

Discussion Notes

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Mark 14. 1-12

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Our big question from this text: *How much love for Jesus is too much?*

Previously from Mark 13

- We struggle with passages like these because they are Old Testament poetic prophesy. Poetry isn't always our strong suit!
- The Temple is finished, Jesus has come, the Temple among us. Jesus is now the place of God's presence among us.
- Stay away from false Messiah's. And stay awake!

Moving into chapter 14 we see the presence of God move from the Temple to the house of a leper.

14. 1-2

- The leaders conspire to kill Jesus at Passover but are wary of the crowds.
- Jesus deliberately goes to Jerusalem to Passover to make the leadership choose: either follow him or kill him.
- There will be a new Passover, new covenant, new people.
- The Romans are dragged into the business to do the dirty work, but God transforms the situation to make a new people for himself, including the Romans.

14. 3-5

- Jesus is outside the city. When we follow him we will always be outsiders. Not only this, but the house of a leper! We're all unclean.
- Another outsider (this woman) comes from the outside! The gospel circle expands.
- The astonishing act (\$30,000-\$80,000 worth of perfume poured on Jesus).
- The people were very angry. This was because at Passover alms would be given to the poor. But how do you honour the one who comes and is greater than the Temple?

14.6-9

- Is this a royal anointing? This is more likely (though she may not understand her actions) an anointing for death as perfume would be poured on bodies post-mortem.
- This is to remind us that King Jesus reigns from a cross. His way is not like Caesar or the Temple leadership's way. Death, love and sacrifice is his glory.
- We get to choose what to do with him. Kill him or follow him.

14. 10-11

- It should not be understated that in Jesus' kingdom men and women are equal. Here an outsider woman does something beautiful and loving for Jesus, and the insider (male) Judas betrays him
- Our choices are before us and are not determined by God or others based on our gender, social class or experience.
- The woman's actions are embarrassing, excessive, and even offensive – except they aren't because of who they are done to – the only one who is worthy!
- She is left unnamed, and perhaps this is best. She shares not in the glory but purely points to Jesus.

Discussion Notes

- What stuck you or interested you about this story?
- What challenged you?
- Is the idea that "God lets us choose" a hard one to grasp?
- How can we extravagantly worship Jesus?