

# Follow – Walking in the Way of Jesus

What Jesus' Death Means

Mark 14:1-11

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February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026



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Mark 14:1-11 — No one in this passage is **INDIFFERENT** to Jesus. He is a **THREAT** to Scribes. He is an **OPPORTUNITY** for Judas. He is **LOVED** by the woman.

The anointing interprets the cross because it reveals in advance that Jesus' death is purposeful, honoured, and central to God's redemptive plan. Jesus himself declares her act to be preparation for his burial and inseparable from the gospel message.

**Jesus' death is interpreted before it occurs** - Without Jesus' interpretation, the woman was misunderstood

- Extravagant
- Wasteful
- Misplaced Devotion

**It reframes the cross as PREPARATION, not DEFEAT** - Burial preparation assumes dignity, honor, and intentional care, not abandonment or failure. Without the anointing, the crucifixion could appear as:

- Defeat
- Tragedy
- Betrayal

**It assigns MEANING to his death before it happens.** - He has spoken of his death as something moving toward a known and meaningful end. Not as a **DISRUPTION** of his mission, but its fulfillment.

***Romans 5:6-11 CSB, For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly... [8] But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [9] How much more then, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from wrath. [10] For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, then how much more, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. [11] And not only that, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received this reconciliation.***

God is the **INITIATOR** of salvation. Christ is the **MEANS** of salvation. Believers are the **BENEFACTORS** of salvation.

Her response contains **FOUR** defining features that become **NORMATIVE** for gospel response:

- 1. She sees the VALUE of Jesus clearly:** The perfume is worth more than a year's wages. But she treats Jesus as more valuable than the perfume.
  - Her story becomes replicated whenever someone sees Jesus as their greatest treasure.
- 2. She responds with costly SURRENDER:** She breaks the jar. It's irreversible. There's no taking it back.
  - Her story is replicated every time someone surrenders their life to Christ.
- 3. She responds with personal devotion, not abstract agreement:** She does not merely believe something about Jesus.
  - Her story is replicated whenever people see the love of God demonstrated in the cross.
- 4. Her response flows from understanding His death.** This is the most important point. Her devotion is not the cause of His death. It is the response to the meaning of His death.
  - Her story is replicated whenever people experience the love of God in the cross.

**Date: Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026**

**Series: Follow**

**Title: What the Jesus' Death Means**

**Primary Passage: Mark 14:1-11**

**Secondary Passage: Romans 5:6-11**

**Big Question: How do we interpret Jesus' death?**

**Big Idea: Jesus' death was intentional, purposeful and central to God's redemptive plan.**

**Keywords: Anointing, Burial, Death, Intentional, Preparation, Interpret, Meaning, Love, Helpless, Boasting, Worship, Surrender, Costly.**

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### **GOING DEEPER – Life Application Questions**

Where did you find hope this week? How did that hope shape your actions? When was that hope threatened?

Read Mark 14:1-11 and Romans 5:6-11. Mark shows three responses to Jesus: threat (scribes), opportunity (Judas), and love (the woman). Romans 5 describes us as helpless sinners and even enemies whom Christ died for. Which of these postures best reflects your natural tendency toward Jesus: resisting Him as a threat, using Him for personal benefit, or loving Him as your greatest treasure? What reveals this in your daily life? How does Romans 5:8 challenge or reshape your understanding of how Jesus relates to you, even at your worst?

Why is it essential that Jesus' death was purposeful and interpreted and not accidental, tragic, or meaningless? How does Romans 5 deepen your understanding of what His death accomplished for you personally?

The woman broke the jar as an irreversible act of surrender. Judas, by contrast, calculated Jesus' value in monetary terms. Where are you tempted to offer Jesus controlled, reversible devotion instead of costly, irreversible surrender?

What practices help keep the cross central in your heart so that your devotion flows from love rather than guilt or religious performance?

If someone observed your life, what would they conclude about the value and meaning of Jesus' death? Would they see indifference, convenience, or costly love? What is one concrete step you can take this week to express your love for Christ in response to His love for you?