



The Book of Mark

Session 11: Mark 14:1-72

While thousands of Passover pilgrims were preparing for the joys of the feast, Jesus was preparing for the ordeal of His trial and crucifixion. His focus is now even more evident to do the will of the Father.

Our goals for this week:

- To follow His footsteps in his final days
- Witness the betrayal of Peter
- See the false accusations of a religious system

Question: We have all faced betrayal in some form or another. How did you handle it? Or maybe you betrayed someone? What was the outcome?

Read Mark 14:1-11

Passover: The festival commemorating the time when the angel of the Lord passed over the homes of the Hebrew people and killed the first-born sons of the Egyptian families. During the Passover the City of Jerusalem grew from 50,000 to a few hundred thousand.

Question: The religious rulers were scheming to find a way to kill Jesus. Have you ever witnessed scheming taking place? What was that outcome?

The sister of Lazarus and Martha, Mary, anoints Jesus by pouring perfume over his head. Anointing was a custom at the feasts.

Question: Mary's anointing created a perfume fragrance in the room's aroma. How have you experienced a "spiritual fragrance" in someone's home to which they worship Jesus?

The disciples, led by Judas, criticized Mary for wasting her money. In John 12:4-6 Judas states that the money should be given to the poor. It's interesting to see how Judas criticized Mary for wasting money while he chose to waste his entire life.

Question: In what ways can a person simply waste their life?

The betrayer went to the chief priests who were glad to see him. Money was promised. He sold his Master for the price of a slave.

Question: How can unbelief and hatred disillusion us in our faith?

Read Mark 14:12-26

The Passover lamb would be selected and examined for blemishes and then be slain in the temple. It was a commemorative feast of the past, but Jesus would institute a new supper.

Question: Jesus gives instruction to two of his disciples. Go in to the city and find this man. Why are instructions important for us to follow in our places of work and in our faith with Christ?

Jesus takes the unleavened bread and breaks it. Then he states, "This is my body". Then he takes the cup of wine and states, "This is my blood".

Question: Think about the moment. What resonates with you? Would you have understood the symbolisms of what Jesus was saying?

Read Mark 14:27-42

The disciples' courage would fail, not their faith in Him. There is a difference.

Question: Have you ever had a moment in which you lost courage in life? Did it weaken your faith, or did it strengthen it?

Peter denies knowing Jesus 3 times. Just a few hours before, he said he never would.

Question: Have you said you wouldn't say or do something, and then you did? How did you deal with that moment?

Read Mark 14:32-42

Jesus leaves the upper room and heads to the Garden of Gethsemane, one of Jesus's favorite places to go. He takes the three, Peter, James, and John with him.

Question: Jesus calls out to his Father, Abba, or Daddy. Have you ever cried out to the Father? I need your help, the weight I carry is too heavy!

The disciples are fast asleep. Their bodies are exhausted with all that went on during Jesus's last week.

Question: Have you ever hit a point of exhaustion both physically and spiritually? Did you take to the Father in prayer or did you just handle it?

Read Mark 14:43-52

Judas and the mob come prepared for a fight. Armed with swords and clubs, they came in the night. Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss.

Question: What had Judas missed? Love your enemies. Love those who persecute you. Nothing about Jesus would tell you that he would act out in violence. Get into the moment. What would you have done?

It says that everyone deserted him. They had just said they wouldn't.

Question: They knew that Jesus was in big trouble. Temple guards, Roman guards, along with Judas the betrayer. Have you ever had a moment when you feared for your life or for someone else's? How did you handle the moment?

Read Mark 14:53-65

They come after Jesus in the night. False witnesses and false testimonies. Yet Jesus says nothing.

Question: Have you ever been falsely accused? Was there ever a time you were silent in which a person ranted at you? Give some examples and explain why you stayed quiet.

Finally, the chief priest asks Jesus, "Are you the Messiah?" Jesus stands tall in the moment and knows the outcome of his destiny with his answer and says, "I am".

Question: Have you ever had a test for a moment of truth in which you stood for the truth? Will you stand for God's truth?

Read Mark 14:68-72

Peter fails big. On top of that his manhood is attacked for not standing up to a Roman soldier but to a servant girl.

Question: Weakness in ourselves is hard to look at. We don't want to see it. How have you been attacked in your life in a weak moment? Did you confess it? Ask Jesus to forgive you for it.

So, the rooster crowed. They have a church on that very spot in which Peter denied Christ. The words echoed in his mind of what Jesus said.

Question: Have you ever had something said to you and in the fall of who you are, only have the words echo in your mind?

Your assignment: Is there anything in your life that needs restitution? Write it down and ask Holy Spirit what you need to do.

Next week: Session 12. Read Mark 15:1-41

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