



## **Mark 14:1-31** **Lesson 21**

*How do you know when you've found the perfect gift? When you have someone in your life that has everything what do you give him or her? Coming to Mark chapter 14, we have a beautiful example of giving love. Jesus' final days on earth were filled with conflict and conspiracy, but in the midst of the mayhem, there is one woman who seized the opportunity to love and worship Him!*

### **Presenting Your Heart: Mark 14:1-31**

1. Try to find a quiet spot to read and absorb all that these verses unfold. Again, Mark gives us a postcard view of the events of Christ life. Briefly explain each snapshot as you see it in this passage.

### **Pouring Out Your Heart: Mark 14:1-9**

*Sandwiched between the treachery of the religious leaders and the treason of Judas is this incredible expression of worship and adoration. Her example and love is a witness to each of us of the unrivaled devotion of one who follows Christ. Keep in mind, every night of Passion Week the Lord would retreat into Bethany as a kind of respite from the growing tension in Jerusalem. Bethany was an oasis of love for Him. Here were dear friends who longed to worship and minister to Him.*

2. Think of the most meaningful gift you ever received. How did you respond?
  - a. What is the most meaningful gift you have ever given?
  - b. How did your recipient respond, and how did it make you feel?

3. As you consider this breathtaking scene, try to describe Mary's actions as they unfold.
  - a. What was the significance of her sacrifice?
  - b. In what way was her life a living example of the perfume she poured out at Jesus' feet?
4. How does John 12:3–5 describe this oil?

***Alabaster Flask of Oil: Typically, this would be a vial that had been quarried and carved in Egypt and filled with pure ointment or perfume. It was never mixed or diluted. It would have been very expensive and considered a great treasure.***

- a. Why do you think she chose to offer this particular gift?
5. Mary's transparent worship spurred different responses. What was the response of the disciples?
  - a. How did Jesus correct their misguided assumption?
  - b. What does this teach you about criticism from others and your response to it?
  - c. Is there comfort here in *'leaving a matter in God's hands'*?
6. In what way, is a believer's devotion to Christ sometimes considered a waste *in the eyes of the world*?
  - a. Have you ever been criticized for your love for God?
  - b. How did you respond?
7. What do you think Jesus meant about our responsibility to care for the poor? (vs. 7)

*Bringing it into Focus:*

*Mary is remembered throughout history for her extravagant love and worship. Giving what was most precious of hers to the One who was most precious to her. Putting yourself in her place, what would you give to Jesus today to express your love? Is there anything that holds you back from this kind of extravagant love?*

8. What is the most meaningful lesson you learn from Mary's example?

*Love through me, Love of God...Make me like Thy clear air  
Through which unhindered, colours pass  
As though it were not there.*

*Powers of the love of God...Depths of the heart divine,  
O Love that faileth not, break forth,  
And flood this world of Thine!*

*Amy Carmicheal*

*Plotting Away Your Heart: Mark 14:2, 10–11*

9. According to verse 2, the priests and scribes had planned to wait until after the feast. Why did their timetable change?
10. As you read this text, what do you think was the motive for Judas' betrayal of Jesus?

*Preparing Your Heart: Mark 14:12–26*

11. With verses 12–19 in mind, do you think instructions like this had become routine to the disciples, or would it still amaze them that Christ had such knowledge and foresight?
- a. How about you; do you obediently take God at His word and trust He knows your future, or do you find yourself surprised when God takes care of difficulties and fulfills His promises to you?

- b. Luke's account fills in for us that it was Peter and John whom Jesus sent to take care of this task. Why do you think He chose these two for a seemingly mundane chore of preparing a place to celebrate Passover?
  - c. How does this reveal growing trust in the LORD as they step out in obedience?
12. As this intimate group reclined, ready to partake, what did the Lord share with them?
- a. How would you have reacted to this startling statement?
  - b. Do you find it surprising that each of these men then began to question if it were he? Why, or why not?
  - c. Are you ever shocked—even reviled—by the thoughts you have or actions you take, even as you seek to obey God? Why do you think this happens? Paul describes this dilemma in Romans 7:7–25. Take some time to read over this passage and make note of the war that often goes on within us and what Paul says will give us victory.
13. In verse 21, Jesus gives a warning to his betrayer. Why do you think He does this?
- a. How did Jesus' words, "*who dips with Me in the dish,*" magnify Judas' treachery?
14. Compare Exodus 12:1–4, the original instruction of Passover, and the institution of Communion. Try to discover as many similarities as possible.
- a. How does Paul personalize this for us in 1 Corinthians 11:23–29?
  - b. How does Mark 14:25 encourage us about our future celebration of Communion?

*Bringing it into Focus:*

*Are you always careful to examine your own heart before partaking of the Lord's Supper? Paul gives a solemn warning about remembering Christ's death in the communion sacrament in an unfit manner. Be sure to not only confess your sin as you partake, but come to God daily in confession and keep a short account with Him. He knows our weaknesses and wants to forgive our sin in order to keep that close fellowship with Him (1 John 1:9). Perhaps it has been a long time since you even took communion. Make a commitment today to take the first opportunity to do so.*

*Predictions of the Heart: Mark 14:27–31*

*Once again, Jesus predicts His betrayal and the forsaking of all the disciples, and once more the reaction is strong rebuttal.*

15. Jesus' statement in verse 27, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night," would be a heartbreaking thing for any believer to hear. How would you have felt if the Lord (having just told you He was going to die) told you, you would fall short in your faith that very night?
16. Re-read Peter's response in verse 29. Can you relate to where he is coming from? What do you think is going through his mind?
  - a. Why did Peter think Jesus was wrong about him?
  - b. What does this reveal about our own self-assuredness?
17. How does 1 Corinthians 10:12 under gird the lesson in these verses?
  - a. Are there any warnings you find personally challenging in this passage? If so, how will you respond?

*From here the events of our Lord's life move in rapid fire. The plan to eliminate Jesus has come to fruition, the divine timetable is in motion, and we are on the verge of the most cruel and dark occasion in history. May we gain a new realization of what our Lord Jesus did for us, and may the Holy Spirit draw us ever nearer to Him in worship, adoration, and thanksgiving for His sacrifice on our behalf.*