

COMMENTARY

GOSPEL OF MARK  
Chapter 14

vs. 1-11:

The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were two of the yearly feasts of the Hebrews. They commemorated God delivering His people from slavery. Jews from all over the known world would go to Jerusalem to observe the feast. The religious leaders were seeking to dispose of Jesus, but they feared to do anything during the Feast, lest the people (more numerous than usual) opposed them.

While eating with Simon the leper a woman came and anointed him with some very expensive perfume, as an honor and display of her admiration of Him. Some complained that it was a waste and that maybe the money could have been better spent to minister to the poor (see also John 12:3ff). Jesus rebuked them and commended her on the wonderful thing that she had done. He reminds them that they will always have the poor, but that He would not be around much longer. This act, He stated, was also in preparation for His upcoming death and burial. He then prophesies that she will be remembered through the years for this act of love.

Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, then went to the chief priests to devise a plan where he could turn Jesus over to them quietly, away from the crowds. The chief priests were pleased and promised to pay Judas for his work.

vs. 12-26:

On the first day of the Feast (it lasted for 7 days) the disciples asked Jesus what arrangements they should make for the celebration. The first day was the day to sacrifice the Passover Lamb (commemorating the Passover in Egypt). The Lamb's death and its blood saved the people from God's judgement and death.

Jesus instructed His disciples to go to the city and they would find a man carrying a jar of water (usually the women carried the water) and they were to follow him. They are then to speak to the owner of the house and ask about the guest room for the "Teacher". They would be then shown a room and they were to make it ready. They followed His instructions and everything happened just as He had said it would.

Jesus announces that evening at dinner that one of the twelve would betray Him. He then signifies that it is one who has dipped their bread into the same bowl as He. He informs them that the future for that individual is so bad, that it would have been better if they had never been born.

Jesus then institutes the Lord's Supper by taking bread, giving thanks, breaking and giving it to the disciples, telling them to take it, for it represented His body. The cup of juice/wine (the "wine" of the Bible was not always fermented) was then prayed over and offered and they drank. Jesus stated that it represented His blood of the covenant (binding agreement with God) which is poured out for many and that He would not drink again until He drinks it in God's Kingdom.

They then left the city of Jerusalem and went out to the Mount of Olives, following the singing of a hymn.

The body and blood of Jesus parallels with the body and blood of the Passover Lamb. Both were slain that others might have life. Both were sacrifices unto God. Both were important concepts to their

respective covenants.

vs. 27-31:

Jesus tells His disciples how He will be struck down and how they will scatter. He then speaks of His resurrection and how He will go ahead of them to Galilee.

Peter speaks up and promises never to leave Jesus. Jesus then prophesies that before the end of the evening Peter will deny Jesus 3 times before the rooster crows a given number of times. Peter resisted and restated his commitment, joined by the others.

vs. 32-42:

Jesus then arrives at a garden outside of Jerusalem, called Gethsemane. He instructs the disciples to sit while He goes off to pray. He then takes Peter, James and John with Him and He begins to become troubled. He tells them of His sorrow and asks for them to stay there as moral support while He prays.

Jesus then goes off a little further and prays that if man can be redeemed in any other way than His dying on the cross, may it be done; If it is not possible then He will submit to God's will. He returns to find the 3 men sleeping and He rebukes them for their lack of strength. He then goes to pray, returns again to the sleeping trio and then goes off to pray a third time. Upon His last return He tells them that He is about to be betrayed and calls for them to come and witness the event.

vs. 43-52:

Judas then appears with an armed crowd, sent by the religious leaders. Judas then greeted Jesus with a customary kiss (the signal to the crowd as to which one was to be taken). Jesus was then seized and arrested. In the meantime, Peter took a sword and in defense of his master, struck the high priests servant, cutting off his ear (John 18:10). Jesus then speaks to settle everyone down, explaining that there was no need for violence (He restores the servants ear-- John 18:10ff). At this point His disciples fled, including Mark (the one who left behind his garment).

Jesus is then taken before the Sanhedrin (a group of religious leaders--about 70 in number; who regulated the religious matters of the Jews. The Romans gave the Sanhedrin the right to try certain cases and pass judgement, with the exception of the death penalty). The Sanhedrin was looking for a way to prosecute Jesus, and many false witnesses were brought forth, but they failed to agree and their testimony was ruled invalid. Out of apparent frustration, the high priest confronts Jesus, daring Him to speak and then asking outright if Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God? Jesus replied that He was and that He will return coming on the clouds of Heaven and found at the right hand of God.

The High priest, not believing this to be true, ruled that Jesus has blasphemed, and according to Jewish Law was guilty of death (Roman laws forbid such a punishment by the Jews for religious cases, however). They then began to abuse Him and taunt Him. Even though He could have destroyed them in an instant, He endured it for our sakes!

vs. 66-72:

Peter had followed at a distance and was outside in the courtyard, while all of this was taking place. A servant girl stated that Peter was a follower of Jesus, but he denied it. Two other times he is then confronted with being a disciple of Jesus, but out of fear, he denies it. After the third time the rooster crowed and He remembered Jesus prophecy and how he (Peter) had failed his Lord. He then left and wept.

## STUDY GUIDE

### Mark 14:

1. What did a woman do at the house of Simon the Leper?
2. Who went to the chief priests to betray Jesus?
3. What did Jesus make known to His disciples in vs. 18?
4. What was the significance of the bread and the wine?
5. What did Peter promise Jesus and what did Jesus reply?
6. What did Jesus pray about in Gethsemane?
7. What did Jesus tell the 3 was about to take place?
8. What was the signal that Judas used to identify Jesus?
9. To whom was Jesus taken first?
10. What "did not agree"? (see vs. 56 & 59)
11. What was the Sanhedrin's verdict? (See vs. 64)
12. Who accused Peter of being a disciple of Jesus?

### BONUS:

1. Do Christians "sell-out" their Lord? Explain
2. What is the importance of the Lord's Supper? Why do we observe it weekly?
3. Who can you picture as the Sanhedrin today? How do you feel towards them?