

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 19

Mark 14:1 – 26

Review

- Baptism and Temptation (1:1-13)
- Year-Long Ministry in Judea (John 1:19-4:45)
- Galilean Ministry (1:14-7:23)
- Withdrawal with Disciples into Various Gentile Regions (7:24-8:26)
- The Road to Jerusalem (8:27-10:52)
 - The First Passion Prediction Unit (8:27-9:29)
 - The Second Passion Prediction Unit (9:30-10:31)
 - The Third Passion Prediction Unit (10:32-52)
- The Passion Week (11:1-15:47)
 - The Date of the Triumphal Entry
 - Sunday The Triumphal Entry
 - Monday Cursing the Fig Tree
Driving Out Money Changers from the Temple
 - Tuesday Teaching on Faith and Forgiveness
Jesus' Authority Questioned
Parable of the Vine-growers
Jesus Answers Religious Leaders – Priorities, Resurrection, Great Commandment
Jesus Questions Religious Leaders
Hypocrisy Condemned
The Widow's Mite
The Olivet Discourse – Things to Come
- The Resurrection (16:1-20)

Jewish Leaders Plot to Kill Jesus

¹Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread were two days away; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize Him by stealth and kill Him; ²for they were saying, "Not during the festival, otherwise there might be a riot of the people."

- Passover (Ex. 12:1-13) – An annual festival commemorating when the Lord passed over the children of Israel and did not allow the destroyer to come into their houses to smite them (Ex 12:23) but did kill the first born of Egypt. The Passover was celebrated in Jerusalem (Deut 16:5-6) at twilight on Nisan 14 (Thursday afternoon of the passion week) when the Passover lamb was killed and then the Passover meal was eaten on Nisan 15 (Thursday evening).
- The Passover was followed immediately by the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Ex. 12:14-21) (Nisan 15-21) to commemorate the Jews' exodus from Egypt.
- The Passion week chronology:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Mon Sunset	Tues Sunset	Wed Sunset	Thurs Sunset	Fri Sunset	Sat Sunset	Sun Sunset
Mon Sunrise	Tues Sunrise	Wed Sunrise	Thurs Sunrise	Fri Sunrise	Sat Sunrise	Sun Sunrise
Sun Sunset	Mon Sunset	Tues Sunset	Wed Sunset	Thurs Sunset	Fri Sunset	Sat Sunset
Temple Cleansing	Teaching in Temple Olivet Discourse	No Record	Passover prep Passover	Betrayal Trials Crucifixion	In grave	Resurrection

- The chief priests and scribes (Sanhedrin) were seeking to seize Jesus by stealth (lit. craftiness or deceit). They were looking for some sly plan by which they might kill Him. However, they were afraid of the people so they had resigned themselves to attempt this after the Feast of Unleavened Bread was complete (after Nisan 21).

Mary Anoints Jesus

³While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining *at the table*, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; *and* she broke the vial and poured it over His head. ⁴But some were indignantly *remarking* to one another, “Why has this perfume been wasted?” ⁵“For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and *the money* given to the poor.” And they were scolding her. ⁶But Jesus said, “**Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me.**” ⁷“**For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them; but you do not always have Me.**” ⁸“**She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial.**” ⁹“**Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her.**”

- This incident occurred the previous Friday. Mark recorded it here to show how Judas made the offer to betray Jesus when Mary’s (John 12:3) anointing was his last straw. This account also shows the different responses of Mary and Judas to Jesus.

⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, ⁵“Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor *people*?” ⁶Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it. John 12:4-6

- Jesus and the disciples were at a banquet in Jesus’ honor held by Simon the Leper, someone Jesus presumably healed (Mark 1:40?).
- A woman, Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus, came and anointed Jesus for burial. The “pure nard” was an aromatic oil from a rare plant root native to India.
- Jesus rebuked the disciples who were scolding Mary. She had done a “good deed” (lit good, noble, beautiful work). This was a time for worship of their Redeemer.
- Prefaced by a solemn introductory saying (I tell you the truth; cf. 3:28) Jesus promised Mary that wherever the gospel (cf. 1:1) is preached throughout the world (cf. 13:10) her deed of love would also be told along with the gospel in memory of her. This unique promise looked beyond His death, burial, and resurrection to the present period of time when the gospel is being preached. The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament

Judas Plans to Betray Jesus

¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went off to the chief priests in order to betray Him to them. ¹¹They were glad when they heard *this*, and promised to give him money. And he *began* seeking how to betray Him at an opportune time.

- Why did Judas offer to betray Jesus? Various suggestions have been made, each of which may contain an element of truth: (1) Judas, the only non-Galilean member of the Twelve, may have responded to the official notice (John 11:57). (2) He was disillusioned by Jesus’ failure to establish a political kingdom and his hopes for material gain seemed doomed. (3) His love for money moved him to salvage something for himself. Ultimately he came under satanic control (cf. Luke 22:3; John 13:2, 27). The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament
- The chief priests offered Judas money – 30 pieces of silver (Matt. 26:15). He then began looking for a way to betray Jesus when He was “apart from the crowd” (Luke 22:6).
- In Judas’ life one finds an intriguing combination of divine sovereignty and human responsibility. According to God’s plan Jesus must suffer and die (Rev. 13:8); yet Judas, though not compelled to be the traitor, was held responsible for submitting to Satan’s directives (cf. Mark 14:21; John 13:27). The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament

The Passover Celebration

¹²On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover *lamb* was being sacrificed, His disciples said to Him, “Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?” ¹³And He sent two of His disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’” ¹⁵“And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished *and ready*; prepare for us there.” ¹⁶The disciples went out and came to the city, and found *it* just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷When it was evening He came with the twelve. ¹⁸As they were reclining *at the table* and eating, Jesus said, “Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me—one who is eating with Me.” ¹⁹They began to be grieved and to say to Him one by one, “Surely not I?” ²⁰And He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who dips with Me in the bowl. ²¹“For the Son of Man *is to go* just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! *It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.*”

- Here begins the account on Thursday. The disciples wanted to know where they would go and prepare the Passover since the Passover had to be eaten within Jerusalem and they were probably in Bethany at the time. Jesus sent two disciples – Peter and John (Luke 22:8). They were to meet a man carrying a pitcher of water which would have stuck out since men did not carry pitchers. This secretive approach was necessary to prevent Judas from betraying Jesus before the proper time. The owner of the house had fully prepared an upper room for the Passover. Tradition says that this man was Mark’s father.
- Reclining at the table and eating – The order of the Passover feast went as follows:
 1. Drinking an initial cup of red wine.
 2. Ceremonial washing of hands.
 3. Eating of bitter herbs.
 4. Drinking a second cup of wine and the head of the household would explain the meaning of the Passover.
 5. Singing the first part of the Hallel, which means “praise” (Psalm 113-114)
 6. Eating the roasted lamb – The head of the household would wash his hands and then break pieces of unleavened bread and hand them out to be eaten with the lamb.
 7. Drinking a third cup of wine.
 8. Singing the second part of the Hallel (Psalm 115-118)
- It was perhaps at the ceremonial washing of hands that Jesus washed the disciples feet as an object lesson in humble servanthood (John 13:1-20).
- Jesus then predicts that one of the disciples would betray Him.

The Lord's Supper

²²While they were eating, He took *some* bread, and after a blessing He broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, and said, “**Take it; this is My body.**”²³ And when He had taken a cup *and* given thanks, He gave *it* to them, and they all drank from it.²⁴ And He said to them, “**This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.**”²⁵ “**Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.**”

²⁶After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

- The Passover is a memorial to God's deliverance from bondage. Here Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper as a memorial to His delivering us from the bondage of sin. It is a **remembrance**.

²³For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “**This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.**”²⁵In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, “**This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.**”²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 1 Cor. 11:23-26

- The timing of when He took bread is not given, but it probably occurred during the eating of the Passover lamb.
- The elements of the Lord's Supper represent Jesus' body given and blood shed for our salvation.
- The elements of bread and wine are clearly symbolic. Our Savior simply took the unleavened bread and wine of the Passover dinner and incorporated them as the elements to be used in communion, to symbolize His body and blood. “The Lord's Supper” - A Valley Bible Church Position Paper
- The early church observed the Lord's Supper regularly.

⁴²They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...⁴⁶Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house,... Acts 2:42, 46

- The word **διαθήκη** (“covenant”) refers not to an agreement between two equals (denoted by **διαθήκη**) but rather to an arrangement established by one party, in this case God. The other party—man—cannot alter it; he can only accept or reject it. The Bible Knowledge Commentary: New Testament
- As they finished the Passover feast they sang a hymn – Psalm 115-118. Psalm 118 had some special significance as Jesus went to Gethsemane then the cross.

⁵ From *my* distress I called upon the LORD;
The LORD answered me *and set me* in a large place.

⁶ The LORD is for me; I will not fear;
What can man do to me?...

¹⁷ I will not die, but live,
And tell of the works of the LORD...

²² The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief corner *stone*.

²³ This is the LORD'S doing;
It is marvelous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day which the LORD has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psa. 118:5-6, 17, 22-24

- Since their conversation after the meal included Jesus' discourse and prayer (John 13:31-17:26), it was probably near midnight when He and the Eleven (minus Judas) finally left the Upper Room and the city. They crossed the Kidron Valley (cf. John 18:1) to the western slopes of the Mount of Olives (cf. Mark 11:1a) where Gethsemane was located (14:32). The Bible Knowledge Commentary: NT