IT’S ALL ABOUT JESUS

Jesus’ Betrayal and Anointing - Mark 14:1-11
GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? Discuss that incident with your group. How did it make you feel?
- What would you consider to be the most valuable thing that you own? Would you ever be willing to give that thing up?
- Have you ever given something of great value to someone that you love? What was it and why did you decide to give it up?
- What kind of sacrifices have you made in your walk with Christ? Have you had to give up friends? Family? Possessions? Talk about this with your group.
The Plot to Kill Jesus

It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, for they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people.”

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. There were some who said to themselves indignantly, “Why was the ointment wasted like that? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they scolded her. But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.”

Judas to Betray Jesus

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

(Mark 14:1-11 ESV)
I. Mark 14:1-2

A. The religious leaders could not stand Jesus any longer. They wanted to get rid of Jesus, so they began to launch a plot to kill him. They were afraid, however, that the crowd that followed Jesus might not be able to be controlled if they killed him, so they decided to wait.

II. Mark 14:3

A. Mark contrasts the betrayal and treachery of Judas and the religious leaders in this section of scripture, with the love and devotion of Mary. The Gospel of John (John 11:1-2) tells us that this was Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus.

B. Mary broke the neck of an incredibly expensive bottle of perfume and poured the perfume over Jesus' head. This was an incredible sacrifice!

III. Mark 14:4-5

A. This surrounding Jesus did not understand how much Mary loved Jesus. They were concerned with how much the perfume could have been sold for. They indicate that the perfume was worth a year's wages! What an unbelievable sacrifice on the part of Mary!
V. Mark 14:6-9

A. Jesus defends Mary's actions. Jesus understands (even if His disciples do not) that He is going to die soon. This act on Mary's part was an unselfish showing of her love for Him!

B. Jesus indicates that the poor will always be with us. And indeed they have been, from Jesus time till now. This was a very special occasion. Jesus would soon die, rise from the dead, and ascend to heaven. The disciples' time with Him was coming to an end.

C. Jesus reminds His disciples that He is about to die (though most of them probably didn’t understand or believe it). He reminds them of his upcoming crucifixion and burial. The motivation for Mary’s act was love and devotion, but Jesus interpreted her act as a fitting preparation for His death and burial.

VI. Mark 14:10-11

A. In the midst of this incredible sacrifice given by Mary to Jesus, Judas Iscariot decided to betray Jesus. He didn’t understand Jesus, even though He traveled and knew Him. Just because you know a lot ABOUT Jesus doesn’t necessarily mean that you KNOW Him.

B. The religious leaders were glad to hear that Judas wanted to betray Jesus, and they promised to give Judas what he really cared about…money. Zechariah 11:12-13 makes it clear that Judas was actually fulfilling scripture by betraying Jesus.
Mary’s great sacrifice for Jesus shows that Jesus always deserves our best.

The more we love Jesus, the more we will show it by what we offer to Him. People should be able to look at our lives and see our willingness to lovingly sacrifice for each other, and for Christ. If this willingness isn’t present in our lives, that’s a HUGE red flag.

We learn from Judas’ betrayal of Jesus, that you can know a lot ABOUT Jesus, but not truly KNOW Him. Just knowing a lot ABOUT Jesus will not save us. There must a be a response of faith and love. Do you love Jesus, have you put your faith in Him to save you, or do you just know ABOUT Him?
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