

Mark Part 27 - "At the Table" (10-26-25)

Main Text: Mark chapter 14:1-25 (parallels: Matthew chapter 26, Luke chapter 22)

Introduction: 2 special meals prior to Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion

1) Dinner at the house of Simon (the leper) in Bethany

Mark 14:1-2 (ESV)

[1] 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, [2] for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people."

Note: The decision to try to destroy Jesus has long been in their minds. Now the events of this Passover week have led them to take action. Still in the shadows, but they are intent on killing.

Context of the upcoming meal: In **Bethany** - 2 miles outside of Jerusalem

Home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha

Also, the Home of "**Simon** the leper" (the presumption being someone whom Jesus healed)

Mark 14:3-5 (ESV)

[3] 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. [4] There were some who said to themselves **indignantly**, "Why was the ointment **wasted** like that? [5] For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they **scolded** her.

Note: This beautiful moment of costly worship is so quickly interrupted and hi-jacked . . .

The response of several disciples

Indignantly - To be oppressed in mind, grieved, angry, resentful, greatly afflicted

Wasted - to destroy fully, loss, ruin, perdition, uses: of vessels, of money, of eternal misery in hell

Scolded - to be greatly agitated, to charge or forbid sternly, to express indignation, to censure

Mark 14:6-9 (ESV)

[6] But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. [7] 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. [8] She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. [9] 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."

Note: You will not ruin this special moment, in fact it will live on in memory of her!

very costly (vs 3): used in 1st Timothy & 1st Peter (contrasting outer beauty vs. truly precious inner beauty)

Mark 14:10-11 (ESV)

[10] Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. [11] And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

Note: Judas was inspired by this act of lavish, wasteful spending, to betray Jesus to his enemies

2) The Passover Meal (In Jerusalem)

Mark 14:12-16 (ESV)

[12] And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, “Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” [13] And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, [14] and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ [15] And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.” [16] And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

Note: Two of his disciples find the place just as Jesus described, and prepare the table for the meal.

Mark 14:17-21 (ESV)

[17] And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. [18] And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” [19] They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, “Is it I?” [20] He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. [21] For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

Note: Jesus was not surprised or unaware of what was about to take place. Even though he was betrayed and killed by others, what was coming was to fulfill what had been written, the very reason He came.

As beautiful as this “Last Supper” with the disciples is (the power of the imagery, and the intimacy of communion), it was happening in the presence of the betrayer leading to the very death this meal was about.

Mark 14:22-25 (ESV)

[22] And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” [23] And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of 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 not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

Note: Jesus took them through these 2 elements. Then, looks forward in hopeful anticipation to a new day!

Bread (my body) - chosen, blessed, broken, given.

Take it in!

Cup (my blood) - blood of the new covenant, poured out for many. **Receive this costly forgiveness!**

Conclusion: As we prepare to remember Jesus, let's remember Mary of Bethany, her costly, lavish worship of Jesus, and let's remember the 2 disciples, preparing a place for communion with Jesus. Let's make space to worship and remember.

Psalm 23:4-5 (ESV)

[4] Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. [5] You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

- A table prepared
- A present enemy
- Anointed his head with oil
- His cup overflows