

The Gospel According to Mark

How Much Would You Bid?

Mark 14:1-11



Introduction:

10/23/2022 AM

I. THE CIRCLING FOES (vs. 1-2)

A. The Passover (vs. 1)

“Now 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”
Mark 3:6; 11:18

B. The Problem (vs. 2)

“for they were saying, ‘Not during the festival, otherwise there might be a riot of the people.’”
Matthew 26:3-4; John 11:47-48

II. THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS (vs. 3-9)

A. The Location Chosen (vs. 3a)

“While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper and reclining at the table...”

B. The Lady Involved (vs. 3b)

“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.”

	Matthew 26:6-7 Mark 14:1-3	Luke 7:36-50	John 12:1-3
Time	2 days before Passover (after Triumphal Entry)	not specified	6 days before Passover (day before Triumphal Entry)
Location	Bethany - home of Simon the Leper	at the home of a Pharisee named Simon (somewhere in Galilee?)	Bethany (at home of Lazarus? Martha served)
Woman	“a woman”	“a woman who had led a sinful life”	Mary
Container	alabaster jar	alabaster jar	not specified
Contents	pure nard, very expensive perfume	perfume (plus tears)	pure nard, an expensive perfume
Object Anointed	Jesus’ head (while He was reclining)	Jesus’ feet (from behind)	Jesus’ feet
Wiping Agent	not specified	hair	hair
Reaction	the disciples were indignant and said that the value should be given to the poor	Pharisee indignant that Jesus would allow such a woman to touch Him	Judas Iscariot objected that the value should be given to the poor
Jesus’ Words	it was a preparation for His burial	she did it because of her many sins which are forgiven	it was a preparation for His burial

C. The Lecture They Gave Her (vs. 4-5)

“But some were indignantly remarking to one another, ‘Why has this perfume been wasted?’”

“ ‘For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.’”

“And they were scolding her.”

D. The Lord’s Rebuke (vs. 6-9)

“But Jesus said, ‘Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me.’”

“ ‘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....’ ”

“ -She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial.’ ”

“ ‘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.’ ”

III. THE CONSPIRING FALSE DISCIPLE (vs. 10-11)

A. A Deliberate Act (vs. 10)

“Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went off to the chief priests in order to betray Him to them.”

B. A Diabolic Pact (vs. 11)

“They were glad when they heard this, and promised to give him money.”

“And he began seeking how to betray Him at an opportune time.”

Conclusion: What is Jesus worth?

Food for Thought:

- 1) What is the value of celebrating feasts and festivals? Which are the most important celebrations for Christians?
- 2) This woman did not care about social taboos or personal embarrassment when she worshiped Jesus. What is the value of honoring Jesus publically?
- 3) How was this woman’s willingness to make a radical, extravagant sacrifice threatening to her critics?
- 4) What is the balance between practical, responsible stewardship and radical, extravagant giving? How do we avoid using the former as an excuse to escape the latter?