

## Discussion Questions: The Great Reveal Anointed King – Mark 14:1-11

Drawn from the April 13, 2025 sermon by Pastor Rick Dietzman

Opener: Share about a time when someone gave you a gift or made a gesture that you knew came from the heart. What made that moment significant for you?

*Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. <sup>2</sup> “But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.”*

*<sup>3</sup> While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.*

*<sup>4</sup> Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? <sup>5</sup> It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages<sup>[a]</sup> and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.*

*<sup>6</sup> “Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>7</sup> The poor you will always have with you,<sup>[b]</sup> and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup> She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. <sup>9</sup> Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”*

*<sup>10</sup> Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. <sup>11</sup> They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over. Mark 14:1-11*

1. What is the significance of the text beginning with “It was now two days before the Passover”?
2. How might the mention of “Simon the leper” impact our understanding of the scene and those present?

3. How does the woman's act of anointing Jesus with costly ointment speak to her understanding of who Jesus is? (Note that the parallel passage in John 12:1-8 identifies this woman as Mary, sister of Lazarus. So you can look for other times she interacted with Jesus in Luke 10:38-42 and also John 11:1-44)
  
4. What do the objections of those present (questioning the "waste" of the ointment) reveal about their priorities?
  
5. Why does Jesus defend the woman's actions, and how does His response shift the focus from criticism to celebration?
  
6. What is the theological significance of Jesus saying, "she has anointed my body beforehand for burial"?
  
7. What insights do verses 10–11 give us about Judas Iscariot's motives, and how does his decision to betray contrast with the woman's act?

**Group Prayer time:** Pray about the profound act of love and the piercing betrayal in Mark 14:1–11, that God will help group members to recognize that every true offering of our hearts—no matter how costly—echoes God's eternal sacrifice and calls us to heartfelt extravagance toward Jesus.

**For reflection in the group or on your own:**

- A. In what ways does the woman's act challenge you to evaluate and possibly redefine what it means to give sacrificially in your own life?
  
- B. Betrayal plays a significant role in these verses. How does this story invite you to examine your own loyalties?