

Sermon Notes – May 19, 2024

Review

- ⇒ From the very beginning, the Gospel of Mark has been heading in one direction: toward the cross and resurrection of Jesus. In fact, Jesus has foretold his death three times in the second half of the book (specifically 8:31-33, 9:30-32, and 10:32-34).
- ⇒ In the gospel of Mark, we are now walking with Jesus in the final week of His earthly life. He has traveled from the region of Galilee to Jerusalem. The tension is building, and a lot of action is about to take place.
- ⇒ In the last few weeks with Pastor Jay (before our break for Mother’s Day), we saw Jesus teaching about the End Times in a passage often called the “Olivet Discourse.” There is an end, it is coming, and it is coming soon! We must be on guard and stay awake, lest we be led astray.

Today’s Text: Mark 14:1-26

Today’s text returns to narrative action. The larger section (chapters 14-15) beginning with this passage is called the Passion Narrative, as it focuses on the suffering of Christ in His sacrificial death on the cross.

In our text today, we will see a stark contrast between faith and rejection of Christ. The two main scenes are a faithful woman anointing Jesus and the “Last Supper,” framed by Jesus’ complete control of what is taking place, including the plot against Him.

a plan and a meal (v. 1-11)

- ⇒ This passage begins with a chronological marker, establishing a timeline in relation to the Jewish _____. The Passover was a yearly feast commemorating the exodus from Egypt.
- ⇒ The chief priests and scribes try to come up with a plan to arrest and kill Jesus – something they have been trying to do for most of His earthly ministry (see 3:6, 11:18, 12:12). They are so serious about it that they are even willing to be _____, but not at risk of their own power.
- ⇒ The central scene here is an act of extravagant devotion to Christ, which is a stark contrast with the murderous plot.

- ⇒ The woman in this scene gives _____ to honor Christ, and does so with complete willingness. (Does that sound familiar? It should! Remember the man in 10:17-31 and the woman in 12:41-44?)
- ⇒ Her actions inspire scornful rebuke from those in the room. But Jesus recognizes her faith and praises her for what she has done. Her act was far from a waste, it was a “beautiful thing.”
- ⇒ What is Jesus saying here about the poor? Not that they’re unimportant, but that something _____ significant is taking place at this moment.
- ⇒ Mark takes us back to the plot: Judas joins the plan, of his own initiative.

The Meal and The Plan (v. 12-26)

- ⇒ We now step forward a day or two. Jesus sends His disciples to prepare the Passover meal, in a scene remarkably similar to what occurred before the _____ on Palm Sunday (See Mark 11:1-11).
- ⇒ How did Jesus know? Divine knowledge? A prior arrangement? Either way, we are meant to see that what is unfolding now has been foreordained.
- ⇒ The disciples gather with Jesus to celebrate the Passover meal and the conversation begins on a note of betrayal. But, this betrayal was not a _____ to Jesus. It is part of God’s purpose and plan.
- ⇒ As the meal continues, Jesus institutes the Lord’s Supper, reframing the Passover meal in light of the work He is about to accomplish on the _____.
- ⇒ The meal concludes and they all head out (singing!), Jesus doing so knowing that he has just eaten his last meal on earth, and that only a few hours remain before he will be on the cross.

Responding to God’s Word

- ⇒ Do you see God’s hand guiding everything that takes place? He is in control of all things, and we should humbly worship Him as the Sovereign Lord.
- ⇒ The values of God’s Kingdom and the values of the world are often opposed. What seems like a waste to the world is not a waste to God. We often place too high of a value on efficiency, at the loss of true worship.
- ⇒ Giving up everything for the sake of Christ is always worth it. Eternal reward is waiting, even when there is no earthly reward.

Worship Next Sunday: May 26, 2024

“The Suffering of Abandonment”

(Mark 14:26-52) Pastor Ben McCardell