

“Preparation for the Passover”  
Mark 14:10-21  
(Preached at Trinity, December 3, 2014)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we entered **Chapter 14** we found the Passion Week continuing. It opens subsequently to the Olivet Discourse in **Chapter 13**.  
In **Verses 1-2** we feel the sense of urgency with the chief priests focusing great attention on their efforts to arrest and execute Jesus. The timing of their plotting was probably late Tuesday even or early Wednesday. Wednesday would have begun at sundown on Tuesday according to the Jewish rendering of days. The Feast of Unleavened Bread began on Friday.
2. **Verses 3-9** form a parenthesis to this section and actually takes us back to the previous Friday evening. On Friday Jesus arrived at Bethany before sunset prior to the beginning of the Sabbath. Bethany was the home of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. He probably spent the Sabbath rest with these friends.  
Saturday evening - a supper was held in His honor in the home of Simon the leper. During this gathering Mary anointed Jesus with expensive perfume, demonstrating the extravagance of her love.
3. Now with **Verse 10** we return to the progress of the Passion Week. In **Verses 1-2** we read that the chief priests and scribes are desperately seeking some way to seize Christ and put Him to death.
  - A. As we have seen, the envy of the religious leaders had reached its climax. Their envy had reached its peak with the raising of Lazarus from the dead, Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and the cleansing of the Temple. While in the Temple on Tuesday afternoon Jesus humiliated them with His teaching. They held a meeting for the purpose of plotting the arrest of Jesus.
  - B. Caiaphas was a cunning, ruthless, manipulator who did not know the meaning of justice. He had no problem with the shedding of innocent blood.
  - C. Their plan was to wait until the end of the eight day festival – God was overriding their plan.  
We read in **Verses 1-2**  
**Mark 14:1-2 NAU** - "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*; <sup>2</sup> for they were saying, "Not during the festival, otherwise there might be a riot of the people."
4. The arrival of Judas Iscariot changed everything. In **Verses 10-11** we read of the plot between them and Judas Iscariot. The word for “glad” in **Verse 11** is χαίρω which means “to rejoice.” It was good news to their ears. It's amazing that the death of Jesus was good news to different people in different ways. To the chief priests they rejoiced to have Jesus out of the way. But for those who hear the Gospel the death of Jesus is the power of God unto salvation.

5. Judas stands in sharp contrast to the affection showed by Mary.
- A. Mary loved Jesus and gave her best for Him. Judas saw no value in Christ except for the 30 pieces of silver being offered to him to betray Jesus.
- B. This demonstrates the sharp contrast between those who have experienced Christian conversion and those who have not.
1. The true believer loves Jesus and demonstrates that love with his life
  2. The pretender demonstrates always that he does not love Christ. It demonstrates itself in at least five ways.
    - First, he will not be inconvenienced – he may be very religious in some areas of his life. He may speak high words about religion - but will continually demonstrate a lack of faithfulness. A passionate love for Christ has led men and women to great inconveniences.
      - They have sold their possessions for the sake of the brethren
      - Acts 2** seems strange to many professors today
      - They have traveled great distances to live in horrid conditions
      - They have suffered the cruel torments of martyrdom
    - Second, he will be inconsistent in his attention to Christ. A lack of true love causes continual distractions.
    - Third, he will not have a passion for Christ that is oblivious to external conditions. Mary demonstrated her love for Christ without regard to what other people thought
    - Fourth, he will not demonstrate love's extravagance. True love for Christ brings a desire to honor Him in all things. It creates a life of excellence. The pretender is half-hearted.
    - Fifth, he will not understand the extravagance in others. They will seem strange to him. He will write them off as having some kind of special calling.
  3. Christianity in the U.S. is often characterized by this half-heartedness. The trend in the U.S. is to cancel Sunday night services. Few even have mid-week services. Calvin preached every day of the week to his congregation. Of course they did not have TV's or shopping malls.
- C. The account in Matthew demonstrates the object of Judas' true love  
**Matthew 26:14-15 NAU** - "Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him."  
 This, by the way, is the motivation of many people in selecting a church today.
6. In **Verses 12-16** Jesus tells His disciples to go and prepare the Passover meal. Normally, my sermons are outlines drawing particular points from the text. Tonight I simply want to look at the preparation for the Passover meal. This passage is rich in truth, particularly as we consider the heart of Judas.

Next time we'll look at the significance of the meal itself—the Last Supper.

7. In **Verses 12-16** Jesus tells His disciples to go and prepare the Passover meal. **Luke 22:8** tells us that the disciples sent were Peter and John. Many things had to be prepared and it was already Wednesday morning
- A room of suitable size had to be obtained
  - The unleavened bread, wine, bitter herbs etc. had to be purchased
  - Normally a lamb would be purchased. During the afternoon it had to be killed in the outer court of the temple. But from the account in John's Gospel, they shared this meal before the actual Passover began.
- John 13:1-2 NAS** - " Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> And during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, *the son of Simon*, to betray Him,"
- There is no mention of a lamb at the Last Supper. Could it be because the Lamb of God was still among them?
8. In **Verses 13-14** we find again that Jesus was perfectly in control of the entire situation
- a. "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; It isn't clear if He had already spoken to the man or if He was simply Providentially ordering it. It seems to be the latter  
**Mark 14:16 NAU** - "found *it* just as He had told them"
  - b. This seems to be another example of the Divine infinite omniscient nature of Christ conveying information to the finite humanity of Christ
9. **Verses 16-18** – The time of the Supper was finally at hand. In John's Gospel we read that Jesus washed the feet of His disciples.
10. Then comes His shocking statement – Words that would change the mood of the occasion. In **Verse 18** Jesus makes the solemn pronouncement – "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me-- one who is eating with Me."
- a. Again, we find Jesus' absolute control and authority over these unfolding events
  - b. He knew all about Judas from the beginning.  
**John 6:70-71 NAU** - "Jesus answered them, "Did I Myself not choose you, the twelve, and yet one of you is a devil?" <sup>71</sup> Now He meant Judas *the son of Simon Iscariot*, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him."
  - c. It is a fearful thing to think that for three years Judas had pretended to be one of the disciples and, yet Jesus knew his heart from the beginning. It is a solemn thing to consider that God knows our own hearts intimately. Jesus knew Judas would betray Him long before Judas did.
11. In **Verse 19** we find the uncertainty and deceitfulness of the human heart. We must never trust it. Each began to respond with a question of uncertainty:  
**Mark 14:19 NAU** - "They began to be grieved and to say to Him one by one, "Surely not I?"  
Other translations state the question even more directly:  
**ESV, KJV, NKJV** - "Is it I?"

12. The Apostle John finally asks the question, “Lord, who is it?”  
**John 13:25 NAS** - "He, leaning back thus on Jesus' breast, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?"
- A. None of us can truly know our hearts.  
**Jeremiah 17:9** – “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”
  - B. Spurgeon: “If we had eyes like those of God, we should think very differently of ourselves. The transgressions which we see and confess are but like the farmer's small samples which he brings to market, when he has left his granary full at home. We have but a very few sins which we can observe and detect, compared with those which are hidden from ourselves and unseen by our fellow creatures.”
  - C. A person can become so spiritually dull they can't perceive even open sin.
    - a. There are people who bring great harm to the church of Christ while they think they are doing great good
    - b. With their tongue professing Christians lash out at one another and at the church while feeling perfectly justified in doing so.
    - c. It is so easy to justify our actions and sin while putting our consciences to sleep.
13. Jesus answers their question in **Verse 20**  
**Mark 14:20 NAU** - " And He said to them, "*It is one of the twelve, one who dips with Me in the bowl.*"
- A. These words did not necessarily identify the guilty party – were they not all dipping morsels of bread into the bowl? All continued to wonder. Although John adds that Jesus handed some bread directly to Judas.  
**John 13:26-28 NAS** - "Jesus therefore answered, "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him." So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, *the son* of Simon Iscariot. <sup>27</sup> And after the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Jesus therefore said to him, "What you do, do quickly." <sup>28</sup> Now no one of those reclining *at the table* knew for what purpose He had said this to him."
  - B. These words primarily emphasized the reprehensible nature of the guilty one – that he would be so cold as to share a meal and then betray the host. In the Near East, to accept someone's hospitality and then injure him was unthinkable.
  - C. These words had several purposes
    1. They served as a warning to Judas – “I know your plans Judas”  
 They gave Judas an opportunity to repent of his evil design  
 You might ask, how is that possible? Had not God decreed the end? Yes, but Judas was not forced to betray Christ any more than any man is forced to deny the generous offer of the Gospel.
    2. It demonstrates Jesus' absolute control over the situation
    3. It furnishes an opportunity for the disciples to examine themselves – Jesus does not identify His betrayer. Self-examination is good exercise.
    4. Judas had already accepted the money. It wasn't too late to return it and end his evil scheme.

14. In **Matthew's Gospel** we read that Judas in hypocrisy and with great audacity follows the lead of the other disciples by saying, "Teacher, is it I?"  
**Matthew 26:25 NAU** - "And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" Jesus said to him, "You have said *it* yourself."  
 a. Keep in mind, Judas had already accepted the 30 pieces of silver. He knew exactly who Jesus was speaking of  
 His question, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" begins with the Greek word μήτι which is used when a negative answer is expected. It was an act equal to, "Surely you don't mean me!"  
 b. In spite of having his own heart exposed he continued to pretend  
 c. He would even betray Christ by kissing Him on the cheek pretending to be a loyal disciple  
**Psalm 41:9** – "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me."
15. We do not know what ultimately led Judas to betray Christ.  
 a. Was it injured pride – perhaps something said?  
 b. More probable, was it disappointed ambition. After three years Jesus still had not met his expectations. Did Judas think that he could force Jesus to seize control as the King of Israel?  
 c. Or was it simply overpowering greed. He freely accepted the money. How sad he succumbed to so small an amount.  
 Thirty pieces of silver would have amounted to no more than \$20.
16. John's Gospel tells us that Jesus added the words,  
**John 13:27 NAS** - "And after the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Jesus therefore said to him, "What you do, do quickly"  
 a. Judas continued with his dastardly deed  
 b. Jesus says in **Verse 21**, "but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! *It would have been* good for that man if he had not been born"  
 c. Such is the case of all lost people. Those who love their life will wish that it had never begun  
**Matthew 16:25** – "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."
17. With Judas gone out of the room our Lord institutes what has become known as "The Lord's Supper." Jesus was about to institute a new feast to replace the old. The old symbol of the Passover lamb whose blood was poured out was in just a few hours to be replaced by the Lamb of God.

#### Conclusion:

1. Oh the corruption of the human heart. How we deceive. How we pretend. How treacherous we are. Even this one who sat and ate with Jesus would deliver Him to be killed.
2. Yet God offers mercy to those who repent. When Jesus said in **Verse 21** "but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! *It would have been* good for that man if he had not been born"  
 Judas had not yet betrayed Christ. He could have returned the money before the deed was done.
3. It serves as a great warning for men not to scoff at God's mercy.  
**Nahum 1:3 NAU** - "The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And the LORD will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished..."