

April 23/24, 2005

Study Questions
The Good News About Jesus According to Mark
The Heart of Worship
Mark 14:1-11
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Do you think obedience to Christ always makes sense to others who are watching us? Explain.
2. Can you think of a time when you were “scolded” by other Christians for doing what you believed God called you to do? How did you process the criticism?
3. Have you ever been negatively influenced by someone who sounded very convincing only to regret it later when the truth became evident? How do we prevent this from happening?

Bible Study

1. Read Mark 14:1-11. Notice Mark’s sandwich technique in recording the story of the woman at Simon’s house between the discussion of the plan of the scribes, chief priests and Judas. The purpose of the technique is to force a comparison.
2. In what ways can people today be like the religious leaders in Jesus’ day?

How could they be so diligent to follow the rules and rituals, even celebrate Passover, all the while plotting the murder of the Messiah?

What is it that truly defines a godly person?

3. Why did “some” (Matthew 26:8 tells us the ‘some’ are the disciples) react so indignantly to the woman’s act of worship? Why did they scold the very act that Jesus praised?
4. The disciples accused the woman of “wasting” the perfume on Jesus. Imagine the disciples are in your LifeGroup. How would you respond to their statement that the perfume was wasted on Jesus?

What is true waste? (Note: Jesus calls Judas the “son of perdition” in John 17:12. The word translated “perdition” is the same Greek word translated “waste” in Mark 14:4.)

5. Why did Jesus praise the woman’s action? What did He see that the disciples missed?

What do we learn from the woman’s example?

6. We know from John's Gospel that the main objector to the woman's act was Judas. His stated reason was his great concern for the poor. However, John tells us the real reason was because he was a thief and had been pilfering money from their money box (see John 12:1-8). Yet, Judas' act was convincing enough that he influenced the other disciples to scold her as well (see Matthew 26:8). How sobering it must have been for the disciples to learn in a week that Judas, the one who influenced them to scold the woman, had such a bad heart he would actually betray Jesus for a few pieces of silver. What do we learn from this about allowing some people to influence our response to other people?
7. This story records two actions that will never be forgotten, the worship of Jesus and the betrayal of Jesus. Summarize in one sentence the point Mark is trying to make.

Application

1. What are some practical steps we can take to avoid being negatively influenced by someone as the disciples were?
2. What does Jesus really want from us, and how do we cultivate it in our lives?
3. The disciples confused worship with waste. What is the difference?

Is there any specific area of your life that is currently in the waste category that needs to be recaptured for worship?