

MARK

The Week that Changed the World

Extravagant Love Mark 14:1-9

{Definition of “Extravagant” : Exceeding what is reasonable or appropriate; absurd.}

Extravagant Hatred Mark 14:1-2

Mark 14:2 – *“...and the chief priests and scribes were seeking how to seize Him by stealth and kill Him...”*

- Passover was on Wednesday of Passion Week, so this is the Monday before the crucifixion (vs. 1a)
- The plot against Jesus picks up steam (vs. 1b)
- Passover Week (vs. 2) - Approximately 300,000 people would be gathering in Jerusalem
 - Religious leaders feared people more than they feared God
 - The fickle crowds hadn’t turned on Jesus yet (“Triumphal Entry” was the day before)

Extravagant Devotion Mark 14:3

Mark 14:3 – *“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.”*

- The Leper’s House - about 2 miles from Jerusalem, near the Mount of Olives
- John 12 tells us this event unfolded six days prior from Passover (weekend before passion/passover week)
- The Woman: Most likely this was Mary, the brother of Lazarus (who was a guest at the dinner, John 12)
- The Anointing
 - Alabaster vial - Needed to be broken open to use
 - Pure nard (worth a year’s wages... in Orange County that would be \$78,000 in 2019)
 - Once the nard perfume was opened it had to be used or it would go bad
 - Poured the perfume over Jesus’ head as well as anointed his feet (John 12)

Extravagant Disgust Mark 14:4-5

Mark 14:4 – *“But some were indignantly remarking to one another, ‘Why has this perfume been wasted?’”*

- The dinner guests (Judas and the other disciples) rebuked the anointing of Jesus (vs. 4)
 - The dinner guests were looking to impress Jesus with their altruistic idea for the perfume (vs. 5)
 - The word “scolding” in verse 5 means to “snort or roar” (like a horse)

Extravagant Good News Mark 14:6-9

Mark 14:9 – *“Truly I say to you, whenever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her.”*

- Jesus places Himself above the poor (vs. 6-7)
 - She has done a good, “beautiful” thing
 - Jesus is either evil, crazy or the Son of God
 - Loving God precedes love for neighbor
- Jesus points to the ultimate act of extravagant love, His death and burial (vs. 8)
 - The King receives his anointing not with oil, but with an ointment for a burial
 - “If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.”
- CT Studd
- Jesus’ prophetic declaration that the gospel would go into the whole world (vs. 9)
- Wholehearted worship is beautiful, not wasteful

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

Today's passage brings to mind the great lyrics from Isaac Watt's hymn, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
*"Were the whole realm of nature mine; That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so Divine; Demands my soul, my life, my all."*

Four Assessments of the Worth of Christ (by Andrew Arthur)

- Jesus is liability - "Let's kill him!"
 - Jesus is marketable - "Let's sell him!"
 - Jesus is measurable - "Let's not give too much to him!"
 - Jesus is priceless - "Let's worship Him, with sacrificial generosity, extravagant devotion and reckless abandonment"
1. Like the 1st century religious leaders, people often have a "extravagant hatred" toward Jesus. Why do you think people respond to Jesus like this?
 2. Mary's anointing of Jesus showed how much she valued and thought of Jesus' worth. Why do you think she was able to see Jesus in this light?
 3. How is your heart currently assessing the worth of Jesus?

Next Steps:

JOIN A LIFEGROUP: LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. To get involved or for more information, contact Connections + LifeGroups Pastor, Robert Carter, at rcarter@calvarylife.org, or indicate "LifeGroups" on The Card (located in the chair rack in the seat in front of you). calvarylife.org/lifegroups

In Response:

COMMUNION: Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

GIVING: The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus' name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or calvarylife.org/give

PRAYER POINTS: These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

PRAYER ROOM: The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.