

He Might Conveniently Betray Him

Mark 14:1 – 21



~ Our Spiritual Safari ended the last leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God on watch; and we are still watching for our Blessed Hope, the Lord Jesus Christ! As children of God, we aren't watching out in fear and anxiety, though; we are watching for the Only Hope and future this world has! Well, we're also watching out for the end of the Gospel of Mark, because we are completing our consideration of this book of the Bible really fast – just three more reports to go. If you haven't yet made a decision for Christ, then I urge you to read this report super-duper carefully.

We have a long chapter before us, and it's also action packed; but it's not Jesus performing the action. He is only reacting to the actions of His friends and enemies. The time has come for Christ to be delivered up for crucifixion. His earthly ministry is now concluded, and He is brought like a lamb to the slaughter. Jesus is delivering Himself into the hands of men purposefully. Mary anoints Jesus and Judas betrays Him. Peter denies Him and the Sanhedrin arrest Him. Then, finally, Jesus commends Himself into the will of the Father!

Here, in the shadow of the cross, we should get a natural feeling of wanting to remove our spiritual shoes from our spiritual feet. We're going to depths we've not previously plumbed in this safari; as well as heights that have not been attained to. The actions in these moments involve the anguish and agony of His soul because His hour has now come! At the wedding in Canaan, Jesus told His mother that His hour had not yet come. Well, it's come now! In this chapter and the next we're going to see a very strange agreement between Heaven and hell. Light and darkness somehow move together in the same direction here. Righteousness and sin are both going to the cross where God and Satan have somehow agreed that Christ will be crucified. Myriad individual decisions converge upon the cross now; and that is all still true today....

1 After two days was the feast of the Passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death.

~ The fourteenth day of the first month would have been the month Nisan - or April. The feast of unleavened bread began the next day and it continued for seven days. I think the religious rulers wanted to arrest Jesus at the end of the unleavened bread feast because the crowd would have all left Jerusalem by then; and they would have gone unnoticed putting Him to death. Interestingly, the religious rulers said, "...not on the feast day." Jesus said, "on the feast day." The way it worked out in history - happening on the feast day - is a matter of public record....

2 But the religious rulers said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar of the people.

3 And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.

~ Well, here comes Mary again with her box of ointment that we examined so closely in Matthew. John tells us in his twelfth chapter that this event happened six days before the Passover. John also tells us Judas led in the defection at this time and caused some others to follow along. It would seem Matthew and Mark place this incident right before the Passover; but Matthew and Mark do not attempt to provide a chronological, step-by-step series of events that conclude in a biography of the Lord Jesus. They simply don't do that. I think a vivid contrast is being made to intentionally separate the dark deeds of greed and selfishness by Judas with this beautiful act of faith and giving by Mary; I believe these accounts are presented in the way they are for a very definite purpose....

4 And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made?

5 For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.

~ Of course, Judas didn't care about the poor; he just wanted to appropriate the ointment to his own selfish ends. This happens in many ways in Christian work today. They always make a very pious suggestion that makes the other person look bad; it's just about always the same scenario. If they had given it to Judas, it would not have gone to the poor! ~

6 And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.

7 For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.

~ If Judas had been sincere – which we know he wasn't – but IF he had been - there would have been myriad opportunities in the future for him to help the poor. I'm sure Jesus had seen Judas permit several opportunities to preach the Gospel slip by. Friends, our contemporary world poverty condition will continue to worsen and there will be no elimination thereof until the Lord Jesus returns to establish His Kingdom. The biggest mistake in the world is thinking that we can end poverty by handing out money. That will never work when there are so many other things wrong in this world that will have to be made right first; and those things, specifically, are called SIN by the Lord - to wit, the willful disobedience and open rebellion against the True and Living God....

8 She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.

~ Well, Mary had done all she could, and that's all God ever asks from anyone. Mary has a spiritual discernment that is completely lacking in the apostles themselves at this time. This poor woman is standing on the fringe of events leading to the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ and she let's Jesus know that she understands what is happening. She recognized she was anointing Him for the burying. None of the apostles sensed this and Mary is the only person that will enter into death with Jesus before He even dies.

The fragrance of the box of oil she broke has wafted down through the centuries and millennia to this day and it's filling our hearts right NOW! We need to make sure that sweetness fills the air of our world everywhere it goes. I hope you're catching the aroma of it here on our Spiritual Safari! ~

9 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

~ I think it's too easy for us to pass over this passage and not give it a second thought. How many of us have actually taken the Gospel into the world? How many of us have broken our box open to anoint Christ Jesus? I think some of us could break our box of ointment and it would, in fact, help the poor; in fact, I'm sure of it. I wonder if God's children are really doing the things they should be doing today. When I look around at this modern society, I see a whole lot of people who want that box for themselves, but they don't seem to care much about Jesus. If anyone is still reading these reports, we all need to break our boxes of oil now, my beloved....

10 And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them.

11 And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.

~ The beautiful bud of Mary has this blight of darkness of betrayal placed immediately alongside it by God in Holy Writ. The plan was that they would wait until it was convenient for them. Well, John tells us that Jesus upsets that plan by commanding Judas, "what you do, do quickly." Judas immediately rushed out from the Upper Room and made a beeline straight to the Pharisees, where he says to them, ".... you have to go get Him right now because He may skip town!" Of course, they go to get the soldiers and immediately they will arrest Him....

12 And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the Passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the Passover?

~ The Passover was eaten with unleavened bread; and then the seven days following were all the feast of unleavened bread. We've seen this in Exodus and there's no better picture of the Lord Jesus in the Word of God. The apostles are being meticulous in following the letter of the Mosaic Law. They needed to know where they would observe the Passover. They are, obviously, planning to do this Passover correctly according to the Mosaic system....

13 And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him.

14 And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the Passover with my disciples?

~ Like the donkey that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on, I think this is more geared towards the human side as opposed to the miraculous. God knows what He is doing, friends, and He knows how to make proper provision for us. There were many who loved Jesus and I think there were many that would have prepared the Passover for Him. Jesus had a plan and He knew what He was doing. I think this reveals God's omniscience. That would make the goodman of the house some unknown disciple of the Lord. There is reason to believe a guestroom had been offered to the Lord Jesus. At some point during Jesus public ministry, this man probably met Jesus, and there were more than one who would have provided this room for Him, I'm sure.

I don't think we need to over-sensationalize; and we always have to be critically careful when "reading-in" things that are not in the Bible. There are so many wonderful normal, natural services we can perform for the Lord Jesus to help the poor. When people do perform the right service for Christ it IS a miracle, too, by the way! The host is not to blame, either, for not being there to wash the feet of the apostles; because this was a private Passover between Jesus and the twelve. Jesus had said, "I shall eat the

Passover with my disciples.” When that was said, I’m sure several in the crowd said, “.... I have a nice private room for You” ~

15 And he will shew you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make ready for us.

16 And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the Passover.

17 And in the evening he cometh with the twelve.

~ Under cover of darkness, comes now Jesus; of course, the Passover began at sundown. This is all going to happen fast and furiously - but it will be on Jesus time schedule. Interestingly, Jesus delivers Himself into their hands. He didn’t have to go to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus could have gone anywhere in Israel after they shared the feast. Well, He did eat the Passover very leisurely with the apostles. It was also quite informal. Today, we’ve made the Lord’s Supper a very formal service – and that's fine, I suppose - but I don’t think it was formal this night! Well, they all eat the Passover supper and the next meal they will all share together will be on the shores of the Sea of Galilee after the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ....

18 And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me.

19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I?

20 And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish.

21 The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.

~ This is a very wonderful time of fellowship we have on our Spiritual Safari. I have been critical of church dinners, but I think they can serve a wonderful purpose for the Lord when they're done in the proper context of worship. Most of what we have today aren't exactly what they should be. It can be an uplifting time where people meet around the Person of Christ; but when Christ isn't truly the center – usually they treat Him like a guest of honor – then there's no fellowship and the entire point has been missed. Generally, these potluck dinners are far from being what they should be. The purpose of the Passover is to meet around the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ - and to feed off of Him, you know?

This is definitely a glorious time of fellowship for the apostles and the only sorrowful element is that they all knew full well they were capable of being the one who would do the betraying. Judas made the decision to do what he did. The Psalmist said, "... yea, my own familiar friend that did eat of mine bread hath lifted up his heel against me." Anyone of them knew they could have been the one. If you have not yet made the discovery that you are totally and completely depraved and a desperate sinner – and that you're not good and have no good in you at all – then you have discovered NOTHING on this Spiritual Safari. I doubt you're still reading. You and I are both thoroughly capable of turning our backs on God at any time. Many church members and even real believers have a spiritual IQ that is pretty low, indeed. In fact, we have a whole lot of spiritual morons! They betray Him every day. The natural man receiveth not the spiritual things of God, for they are foolishness to him ~

||||||