

## Lent: The Last Seven Days – Mark Scene 35

Jonathan Cleveland

Mark 14:1-11

### Reflection & Discussion Questions

#### **Few people had truly encountered the person of Jesus**

Most people related to him as they wanted him to be or feared he might be.

\*What is the difference between knowing things about Jesus and encountering him in your life?

\*Where have you related to him in one of these ways?

#### **Read and discuss Mark 14:1-5 (NIV)**

*<sup>1</sup>Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. <sup>2</sup>“But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.”*

*<sup>3</sup>While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.*

*<sup>4</sup>Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? <sup>5</sup>It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly. <sup>6</sup>“Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>7</sup>The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. <sup>9</sup>Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”*

*<sup>10</sup>Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. <sup>11</sup>They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.*

\*What is this passage saying? What does it show us about God?

\*What does this passage seem to be saying to you specifically? Is there something here to act on or share?

#### **Mary’s action demonstrated her theology**

She believed at the core of her heart that Jesus is the God who can be trusted.

\*What can we learn from Mary’s act of courage, risk, and confidence?

\*What would your worship look or feel like if you weren’t afraid of criticism or critique?

\*When do you find yourself ‘rebuking’ other’s spiritual lives?

#### **Your view of yourself is the greatest commentary about your view of God**

There are 3 ways we typically approach God:

Avoidance Behaviors – I say you are a distant and unloving God who doesn’t care to know me

Shame Behaviors – I say you are an always disappointed God who will not give grace

Beloved Behaviors – I say you are the God who loves me and is full of grace, truth, and redemption

\*What does the way you are viewing yourself right now reveal about your theology? Does one of these approaches impact your relationship?

For additional resources for growth or connection during COVID-19 restrictions, please contact Caitlin

[cgarrett@pulpitrock.com](mailto:cgarrett@pulpitrock.com)