

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Mark 14:32-41**.
- B. While thousands of Passover pilgrims were preparing for the joys of the feast, Jesus was preparing for the ordeal of His trial and crucifixion.
- C. As we look at the events of the final days we see the great contrasts of love and betrayal.

I. THE SERVANT IS ADORED (Mk. 14:1-11).

- A. Neither Mark nor Matthew names the woman, but John tells us that it was Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-2).
- B. Mary's anointing of the Lord must not be confused w/a similar event recorded in Lk. 7:36-50. The unnamed woman in the house of Simon the Pharisee was a converted harlot.
- C. It was an expensive offering that she gave to the Lord. Spikenard was imported from India, and a whole jar would have cost the equivalent of a common worker's annual income. Mary gave lavishly and lovingly. She was not ashamed to show her love for X openly.
- D. There were three consequences to her act of worship:
 - 1. The house of filled w/the beautiful fragrance of the ointment (Jn. 12:3).
Does your "house" smell, with the fragrance of X (2Cor. 2:15-16)?
 - 2. The disciples, led by Judas, criticized Mary for wasting her money (Jn. 12:4-6).
Are you "wasting" your money on the Lord, or just wasting your life?
 - 3. Jesus commended Mary and accepted her gracious gift (14:6-8).
Mary gave faith and love; Judas gave unbelief and hatred. What are you giving?
- E. The Servant was adored. How are you adoring (loving) the Servant today?

II. THE SERVANT IS BETRAYED (Mk. 14:12-26).

- A. The Passover.
 - 1. For the Jews, the Passover feast was the memorial of a past victory, but Jesus would institute a new supper that would be the memorial of His continuing victory over sin.
 - 2. The original Passover feast consisted of the roasted lamb (reminding them of the blood), the unleavened bread (reminding them of their haste in leaving Egypt), and bitter herbs (reminding them of their suffering in Egypt).
 - 3. Jesus became deeply troubled during this festive meal and announced that one of the disciples was a traitor. This announcement stunned all the disciples except Judas, who knew that Jesus was speaking about him.
- B. Judas.
 - 1. Judas was neither a martyr nor a robot. He was a responsible human being who made his own decisions but, in so doing, fulfilled the Word of God. If Judas had not betrayed X, one of the other disciples would have.
 - 2. He must not be made into a hero (because he sacrificed himself), or a helpless victim of predestination. Judas was lost for the same reason millions are lost today; he did not repent of his sins and believe on JC (Jn. 6:64-71; 13:10-11).
- C. The Lord's Supper.
 - 1. After Judas left the scene, Jesus instituted what Xians commonly call the LS.
 - 2. Bread and wine were two common items that were used at practically every meal, but Jesus gave them a wonderful new meaning.
 - a. "This is My body" meaning that the bread, in this supper, has the spiritual significance of the Lord's broken body.
 - b. "This is My blood" meaning that the fruit of vine, in this supper, has the spiritual significance

of the Lord's shed blood.

3. Jesus gave new meanings to the unleavened bread and the fruit of vine. Whenever they would eat this spiritual feast, these food items would remind the partakers of Him.
- D. Betrayal is a loathsome act. Can you eat the LS or must you flee in betrayal like Judas?

III. THE SERVANT IS FORSAKEN (Mk. 14:27-52).

- A. On the way to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus warned the disciples that they would all forsake Him; but He then assured them that He would meet them again in Galilee after His resurrection. He even quoted Zech. 13:7 to back up His warning.
- B. Our Lord's struggle in the Garden is what truly prepared Him for the cross. He went to Calvary because after His struggle in the Garden He was no longer doing His will.
- C. Three times Jesus prayed that the cross (the cup) might be taken from Him, but all three times He came to the same resolution--not His will, but the Father's will was to be done.
- D. We must enter into our own Garden of Gethsemane and decide whose will we are going to do. Are we going to do our will, or God's will? Who is going to be in control of your life? Thrones only have but one seat--who is going is sit on it?
- E. The fact that Judas brought such a large group of armed men (14:48-49) is evidence that neither he nor the religious leaders really understood Jesus. Neither Judas, the soldiers, or the Jews were in control of this situation...Jesus was!

IV. THE SERVANT IS REJECTED (Mk. 14:53-72).

- A. Both the Jewish and Roman trials were in three stages. The Jewish trial was opened by Annas, the former high priest (Jn. 18:13-24). It then moved to the full council to hear witnesses (14:53-65), and then to an early morning session for the condemnation (15:1).
- B. Jesus was then sent to Pilate (15:1-5; Jn. 18:28-38), who sent Him to Herod (Lk. 23:6-12), who returned Him to Pilate (15:6-15; Jn. 18:39-19:6). Pilate yielded to the cry of the mob and delivered Jesus to be crucified.
- C. Peter denies the Lord three times, just as Jesus said he would (14:66-72).
- D. Before we judge Peter too severely, we need to examine our own lives. How many times have we denied the Lord and lost opportunities to do good? Do we, like Peter:
 1. Talk when we should listen.
 2. Argue when we should obey.
 3. Sleep when we should pray.
 4. Play when we should work.
 5. Fight when we should submit.
 6. Hate when we should love.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. What have we learned? Time for a check up:
 1. How's your love (adoration) for X coming along? What have you given Him lately?
 2. Betrayed a friend lately, then you also betrayed the Lord?
 3. How did your Gethsemane come out? Who is in charge--you or the Lord?
 4. How many times this week did you deny X by how you lived your life?
- B. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.