

THE ABANDONMENT OF JESUS

Mark 14:1-11

Sunday | April 2nd, 2017 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

Mark 14:1-11 *"It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, for they said, 'Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people. And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. There were some who said to themselves indignantly, 'Why was the ointment wasted like that? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.' And they scolded her. But Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her. Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him."*

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

[James R. Edwards] *"The general theme of chap. 14, the longest in the Gospel, is the abandonment of Jesus. The chapter opens with Jesus and the disciples in Jerusalem, where he was teaching and debating with the religious leaders. Everything, in other words, is as it has been in the Gospel so far. But following the Lord's Supper a rapid and total defection follows, leaving Jesus alone and abandoned. Chapter 14 rehearses in sorry detail how the early opposition of the Pharisees (3:6; 11:18; 12:12) metastasizes among the ruling counsel of the Jews, the Roman rulers, and the populace. The dam breaks within the ranks of the disciples as well, and they all—from Judas to Peter—flee. At the cross Jesus dies utterly alone, condemned by Rome and abandoned by the nation, his people, his followers, and even the Father (15:34). The fate of Jesus poignantly fulfills what Isaiah said of the Servant of Yahweh, all 'have gone astray.' Accused, assailed, scorned, Jesus suffers as silently 'as a sheep before her shearers is dumb' (Isa 53:4-9)."*

DISCUSS

1. Share some war stories about losing your kids (assuming you have). Talk about the fear of abandonment.
2. Discuss Edwards' summary of the theme of Mark 14, "The abandonment of Jesus." Identify examples from the gospels.
3. Pastor Patrick said that Mark 14 contrasts two possible responses to Jesus, rejection or devotion. Read the passage making special note of both.
4. The Gospel of Mark has an "insider/outsider" theme. Those you'd think would be on the "inside" are actually seen to be on the "outside," and vice versa. Is that present in chp. 14? Where else does that appear in the Gospel (flip through the book and identify examples)?² How do you respond to that? Discuss.
5. What immediate applications can be made in light of this text?
6. As a group, fix your gaze on Easter and spend time in prayer.

¹James R. Edwards, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary: The Gospel According to Mark* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2002), p. 410.

²(e.g.) John the Baptist (1:1-8), the demon-possessed man living among the tombs (5:1-21), the woman plagued with bleeding (5:25-34), the Syrophenician woman (7:24-30), the children (10:13-16), blind Bartimaeus (10:46-52), the widow and her offering (12:41-44), etc...