

Markan Sandwiches

(Initiated, inserted, intercalation and interpolations.)

Tuesday Bible Study: 13:00

Session 6 (ish) (July 30)

Plot to kill Jesus -anointing at Bethany.

A contrast of loves! A sandwich with money. Mark skilfully highlights the radiance of a woman's love for our Lord between the dark plotting of the religious hierarchy and that of Judas

Introduction & Prayer

Mark 14:1-11 (NIV)

The Plot to Kill Jesus

Mar 14:1 *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.*

Mar 14:2 "But not during the festival," they said, "or the people may riot."

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

Mar 14:3 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.

Mar 14:4 Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume?"

Mar 14:5 It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

Mar 14:6 "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.

Mar 14:7 The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me.

Mar 14:8 She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial.

Mar 14:9 Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

Judas to Betray Jesus

Mar 14:10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them.

Mar 14:11 They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Key Questions

Any variation in versions being read around the room?

As we consider the "bread" of this sandwich – the plot to kill Jesus and then initialization of it by Judas – what do you think would have motivate them to do such an insidious deed?

Women do better again! But wasn't it a waste of money in real terms? Do we count the cost to closely?

How would you describe her action? What does it teach us about how our own love for Jesus is demonstrated?

Who do you want to be? How do you want to be remembered. What a contrast, Judas and Mary (probably)

Jesus interprets her act as a forecast of his coming death. How would his death and her sacrificial devotion be connected to each other?

Do you treat Jesus as friend?

Key points working through. (Verses up?)

Sandwich - Better together?

WHAT? *WHAT DO these passages mean in their context?*

SO WHAT? *SO WHAT do these passages mean for my "progress" on the faith journey in relationship with God.*

Pouring of Oil (Why do this?)

The woman does something altogether different. Obviously, we live in a different culture, so some things are hard to understand in this. Pouring oil on a guy's head wouldn't go over quite so well in our culture (at least since the 1950's). In that time and culture, taking baths wasn't something a person had the opportunity to do as often as we do. People would quickly develop a certain odoriferousness (funk) about them. So, this sort of thing was a welcome way to put a sheen on the hair and diffuse the pungency of human odor.

Counting the cost -another good thing?

The point is, it was a good thing – and not only that – it was costly to her. Clearly, Jesus is the object of her love, which prompts her actions. **Three hundred denarii** was the equivalent of a year's wages. People still think it a waste to give a year of one's life to the Lord. How much more a waste would they consider it to give one's whole life to the Lord!

Do this in remembrance of me!

Jesus declared that this woman would always be remembered. Interestingly, Judas would also be forever remembered, but not in such reverential ways. Think of all the contrasts you can of what the woman is remembered for compared to what Judas is remembered for.

Jesus my friend

Here was one friend, that was so kind as to invite him to sup with him; and he was so kind as to accept the invitation, Mark 14:3. Though he had a prospect of his death approaching, yet he did not abandon himself to a melancholy retirement from all company, but conversed as freely with his friends as usual.

More prophesy? Song of Solomon 1:12-14

“While the king was at his table, my perfume spread its fragrance. My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh resting between my breasts. ”

Who was the unnamed woman? -Mary of Bethany, John 12:3

“Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.”

What next....

Don’t forget the other classic we considered?

Mark 14: 53-72 Peters Denial (Jesus’ trial)

On your own -away from the group!