



SPORTS IN FOCUS

THE SERVANT IS WORSHIPED, BETRAYED, AND DENIED

Mark 14:1-72 • Lesson Eleven

READY

- One can talk about spirituality or angels and find companions willing to chat for hours. One can even mention God (in a vague, safe sort of way) without opposition. But mention Jesus Christ and people react—visibly, sharply, quickly. Why is this the case?

SET

Context of Mark 14:1-72

In this fast-paced account of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, events now become even more rapid-fire. Those who hate the Servant-Messiah sent from God begin moving quickly to destroy Him. Jesus' followers, perhaps sensing trouble, react with everything from worship to abandonment. Jesus uses every occasion to teach His disciples important truths they will need in the future. This chapter is filled with tense drama and an emotional roller coaster ride.

Keys to Text

The Jewish Feasts: The Passover was a very special feast day in Israel's religious calendar and was linked to what took place in the Exodus (Exod. 12-13). It was marked as the day of redemption from Egypt. Passover began with the slaying of the lamb, which had to be a lamb without blemish. It was customary to slay the lamb at 3 p.m. This was the time of day that Christ died.

GO

Read Mark 14:1-72

1. What was the significance of Mary's anointing of Jesus? How did Judas and others view this extravagant display? How did Jesus view it?
2. How does Mark describe Christ's mood in Gethsemane? What did Jesus suggest might come from the disciples' failure to pray?
3. Describe the scene when the mob showed up to arrest Jesus. Why did Peter fight for Jesus one moment and flee the next?
4. What parallels do you see between the original Passover celebration, Christ's sacrifice on the cross, and the Lord's Supper?
5. The beginning of chapter 14 gives an account of Mary's lavish adoration of Jesus; the end of the chapter contains the sad record of Peter's denial of Christ. Why the difference in responses?
6. One of the lessons of this chapter surely must be, "let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Corinthians 10:12). What warnings for your own life do you see in Peter's wretched denial of Christ?

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Baylor men's basketball head coach Scott Drew was interviewed just before Baylor would play in its first-ever Sweet 16 game. "I wouldn't be in this spot without the Lord. With all the attention this week and last, I know I need to stay in the Scripture and stay humble. I just want to deflect the light on myself or individual players to Whom it belongs, that is God." His pastor had this to say about Drew's perspective on sports. "I will always remember when we lost to Texas two years ago by a single point at home, just a devastating loss, and the next morning I'm walking past the nursery at church and there was Scott, on his knees, playing with the kids as a volunteer worker. Name me one other coach in America who would do that after a gut-wrenching loss."

Jesus wrestled with God's will for His life, but willingly yielded to it. In what ways do you wrestle with God? How does Jesus' example help you? How does Mary's example of costly worship motivate you? How can you emulate her example this week?