

Lesson 21: Mark 14:12 – 65

Our last lesson had apocalyptic themes. Jesus warned his Apostles to watch out for false prophets and false messiahs. He warned the Apostles that they would be arrested by the priests and scribes in the Temple and persecuted because of their faith in Jesus the Christ. And, as it had happened earlier in the history of Israel, the Temple would be destroyed and defiled. Jesus went on to warn his faithful disciples not to fight but to flee when they saw the signs of impending doom for Jerusalem. The lesson ended with a woman, who was unnamed in Mark's Gospel, anointing Jesus with precious oils. Jesus said that she was anointing him for his death and burial. Finally, we read a very brief mention of Judas' betrayal of Jesus in our last lesson.

1. **Read Mark 14:12-16 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes with your group.**
 - a. **Reflection: Do you think preparations for Passover were pre-arranged for Jesus and His disciples?**
 - b. **Check footnotes for 14:13. Why would it be unusual for a man to be carrying a water jug in the middle of the day?**
 - c. **Why would it be a good idea to keep the location of their Passover dinner a secret at this point in time?**

2. Read Mark 14:17-21 and footnotes. Read also Psalm 41:8-11, and John 13:18 here-

Psalm 41:10-11 Even my trusted friend, who ate my bread, has raised his heel against me.

¹¹ "But you, LORD, take note of me to raise me up.

John 13:18 ¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you. I know those whom I have chosen. But so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'The one who ate my food has raised his heel against me.'

- a. **The Apostles had heard and had seen many surprising things from Jesus. His betrayal by one of their group was shocking. Reflection: What do you think the eleven innocent Apostles were thinking at this point?**
- b. **In the Middle East betraying a friend after eating with him was the worst form of treachery. Reflection: Do you think anyone of them suspected Judas at this point?**

3. Read Mark 14:22-26 and footnotes. Read also CCC 1363 and CCC 1364 here.

CCC 1363 In the sense of Sacred Scripture the *memorial* is not merely the recollection of past events but the proclamation of the mighty works wrought by God for men. In the liturgical celebration of these events, they become in a certain way present and real. This is how Israel understands its liberation from Egypt: every time Passover is celebrated, the Exodus events are made present to the memory of believers so that they may conform their lives to them.

CCC 1364 In the New Testament, the memorial takes on new meaning. When the Church celebrates the Eucharist, she commemorates Christ's Passover, and it is made present, the sacrifice Christ offered once for all on the cross remains ever present.¹⁸⁵

- a. **Passover meal recalls the suffering of Israel and the ultimate redemption of Israel. What new meaning does Jesus give the meal?**
- b. **What are we called to do with the bread and wine?**

4. Jeremiah prophesied about a *new* covenant. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 here-

Jer 31:31, 33-34 See, days are coming—oracle of the LORD—when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah..... ³³ But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days—oracle of the LORD. **I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.** ³⁴ They will no longer teach their friends and relatives, “Know the LORD!” **Everyone, from least to greatest, shall know me—oracle of the LORD—for I will forgive their iniquity and no longer remember their sin.**

What is the *new* covenant that Jesus instituted at the Last Supper?

5. Read Mark 14:26-31. a. Reflect: What was it that shook the faith of even Peter?

6. How similar is Peter’s response to Jesus here, to the denials in 14:19?

7. Read Mark 14:32-42 and footnotes. Share any footnotes with your group.

a. Who did Jesus ask to stay with him at this difficult time?

**b. At what other events were these Apostle also invited to join Jesus?
(See Mk 5:35-43, Mark 9:2-13)**

c. What evidence is there of the *human nature* of Jesus in these verses?

d. What is the meaning of 14:38? Could it apply both the Apostles *and* to Jesus?

e. Why do you think the men could not stay awake?

8. Read Mark 14: 43-52 and footnotes. Share any helpful footnotes. What irony that Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss, yet the men with him came armed with clubs and swords!

a. Reflection: Why were those who arrested Jesus so heavily armed?

**b. Who does the Gospel of John say cut off the ear of the high priest’s servant?
(See John 18:10)**

c. How did Jesus respond to the ear being cut off in Luke 22:51?

d. What do we learn from Jesus’ response to the violence in these verses?

9. Read Mark 14:53-65 and footnotes.

a. As you read through Mark 14:53-60 what would happen to this “case” if it were presented in an episode of Law and Order?

b. What kind of testimony was being presented against Jesus?

c. Reflection: Why does Jesus remain silent when questioned in 14:60-61a?

d. The high priest asks a different question in 14:61b, “Are you the Messiah, the son of the Blessed One?” Why did Jesus answer *this* question and not the others?

e. What is significant about *how* Jesus answered this question?

f. What was the reaction to Jesus’ declaration regarding his true identity?