

## THE SHEEP ARREST THE SHEPHERD — (MARK 14)

Mark 14:1-11 *Jesus is Anointed.* High holy days were just two days away; the temple professors and priests and patriarchs were looking for an undercover means to arrest Yeshua, and then kill Him. They were wary of doing this during the Passover & Feast of Unleavened Bread<sup>11</sup> — “*the people might take up arms!*”<sup>12</sup>

Meanwhile Jesus was visiting Bethany, staying in Simon the Leper’s house. Mary (actually “Miriam,” Martha and Lazarus’ sister; see John 12:3), came in and poured a jar full of expensive perfume<sup>13</sup> on the head of the Christ. Onlookers were incensed — *Why waste this expensive perfume? It could have been sold for over \$16,000 and the poor could have been helped.* So, to make themselves feel superior perhaps, they rebuked her, and did so harshly. [Women, especially generous women, are easy targets to kvetch about, and vent inferiority.]

Jesus was not happy — *Leave her alone,* He thundered — *Why are you bothering her? She’s done something beautiful, for Me. You’ll always have poor folk; you can help them anytime. You will not always have Me. She did what she could. By pouring perfume on Me before My burial, she prepared My body. Amen, truly, let it be, make it so — wherever the good news is declared, throughout the world, people will tell of what she did for Me.*

Judas Iscariot left to see the chief priests on how to betray the Christ. They were delighted to find a politically expedient way to arrest Him, and they promised Judas money for his cooperation. Judas waited to act, to find an opportunity to hand Jesus the Shepherd over to the sheep.

- Q Why didn’t the big wheels want to arrest Yeshua sooner? With whom would they have trouble if indeed “the people” rioted?
- Q Why did Mary (Miriam) use so much wealth on perfume, and use it in such a wasteful way?
- Q What was beautiful (καλον, inwardly virtuous shown outwardly) about what she had done to Jesus?
- Q What did you learn from others about this perfume anointing before reading Mark’s account?

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<sup>11</sup>*Passover* is the Hebrew (and now Jewish) festival commemorating the time when Yahweh, the Lord Our God, passed over the homes of the Hebrews rather than killing their firstborn sons and animals as He did in Egyptian homes (see Ex 12:13, 23,27). The lambs used in the *Passover Feast* were killed on the 14th of Nisan (March-April), and the meal was eaten the same evening between sundown and midnight. Since the day began at sundown, the *Passover Feast* took place on the 15th of Nisan. The *Feast of Unleavened Bread* followed *Passover* and lasted seven days (see Ex 12:15-20; 23:15; 34:18; Dt 16:1-8).

<sup>12</sup>During Passover and the week-long Feast of Unleavened Bread the population of Jerusalem increased from about 50,000 to several hundred thousand. It would have been too risky to apprehend Jesus with so large and excitable a crowd present.

<sup>13</sup>Spikenard, a perfume made originally from a plant growing on the Himalayas.

### MARK 14:1-11

Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill him. <sup>2</sup>"But not during the Feast," they said, "or the people may riot."

<sup>3</sup>While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as 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.

<sup>4</sup>Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? <sup>5</sup>It could have been sold for more than a year's wages [minimum≈\$16,640] and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

<sup>6</sup>"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>7</sup>The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup>She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. <sup>9</sup>I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

<sup>10</sup>Then [actually και, and] Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. <sup>11</sup>They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Mark 14:12-31 *The Lamb Prepares to be Sacrificed.* On the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan, it was time to sacrifice the Passover lamb so the disciples asked Him, *Where do you want us to do Passover?* So Jesus sent Peter and John (Luke 22:8) into the city to find a man carrying a jar of water who will meet you two. Follow him. To the owner of the house, say *The Teacher asks "Where is my guest room so I may eat the Passover?"* The owner will show you a large room, upstairs, already ready to go. Make preparations there. John & Peter left and sure enough it was as Jesus said it would be. As the evening came (15<sup>th</sup> of Nisan), Yeshua arrived with the twelve.

While reclining at the table, Jesus said, *Amen, one of you will betray Me, in fact he is eating with Me right now.* They were grieved; each one asked, *Surely not I?* [μητι εγω] Jesus continued, *It is one of you twelve; in fact one who dips bread into the bowl with Me. The Son of Man will go just as Scripture portrays, but woe to the man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better that he never had been born.*

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said grace and broke it, gave it to His disciples and said, *Take it—this is My body.* Then with the cup, He again said grace, offered it to them, and they all drank from it. *This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many. Amen, I will not drink again until the day when I drink it anew in the Kingdom of God.*

When they sang a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus told them, *You will all fall away. Zechariah said it well, "I will strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered." But after I have risen, I will meet you in Galilee.*

## MARK 14:12-31

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

13So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. 14Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 15He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

16The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

17When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve.

18While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

19They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?"

20"It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. 21The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

22While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

23Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.

24"This is my blood of the [some mss read *the new*] covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. 25"I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God."

26When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

27"You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'

[Zech. 13:7] 28But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

29Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not."

30"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice [some early mss do not have *twice*] you yourself will disown me three times."

31But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same.

Peter responded with typical uppity bravado—*Even if all fall away, not me!*

*Amen, Jesus answered, today, yes tonight—before the rooster crows twice you will disown Me three times.* Peter disagreed [he wasn't the sharpest knife in the drawer] with the Lord of the Universe—*No, even if I have to die with You, I will never disown You.* And all the others affirmed the same declaration of loyalty.



Q Why did the Christ tell them that one of them would betray Him?

Q Who betrayed the Christ?

Q Did the bread become the body of Christ on Nisan 15? And, the wine become His blood? Why do many insist that is indeed the case?

Q Where do you suppose the disciples got the courage to call the Lord of the Universe a liar?



—James Tissot, 1890's

Mark 14:32-54 *Arrested and Alone.* There was a place called Gethsemane, and it was there that Jesus told His disciples to sit while He went off to pray. Taking James, John and Peter along with Him, He began to become distressed and troubled, deeply so. *My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death, stay here and keep watch.*

Going on a little further, He fell to the ground, praying that this time would pass. *Father, everything is possible for You. Take away this responsibility, this cup is more than I can bear. Nonetheless, I will do what You want, not what I want.*

Turning to His rear guard of three, He found them sleeping. He called out Simon Peter—*Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch [see Mark 13:37] and pray so you do not fall to temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.* Again He left to pray, and again telling Father God that He wanted out of this ordeal. And, again a third time, when returning to His tertiary guard, they were asleep—they didn't know what to say. After the third time, He said, *Enough is enough. It is now time. Look the Son of Man is betrayed into the control of those distanced from God. Get up. Let's go. Here comes My betrayer.*

Then it happened, just as He was talking, Judas appeared, with a sword & club wielding crowd, including the priests, professors and patriarchs. The signal was tendered—Judas kissed the Christ, and He was led away. During the scuffle, Peter, a lousy swordsman, took off the ear of a servant [Malchus] of the high priest. It wasn't pretty—Jesus healed the ear, and turning to the sheep arresting Him said...

## MARK 14:32-54

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup>He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup>"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

<sup>35</sup>Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup>"*Abba*, [Aramaic for "Father"] Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

<sup>37</sup>Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? <sup>38</sup>Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

<sup>39</sup>Once more he went away and prayed the same thing.

<sup>40</sup>When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

<sup>41</sup>Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup>Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

<sup>43</sup>Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

<sup>44</sup>Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." <sup>45</sup>Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. <sup>46</sup>The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

<sup>47</sup>Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

<sup>48</sup>"Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? <sup>49</sup>Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." <sup>50</sup>Then everyone deserted him and fled.

<sup>51</sup>A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, <sup>52</sup>he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

<sup>53</sup>They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together. <sup>54</sup>Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

*Am I leading a rebellion? Seriously? Really? Do you need swords & clubs? When I was with you in the temple courts, you did not arrest Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.*

Then they all deserted Him, fleeing to save their less than holy behinds. Mark fled as well; when seized, he left in such a hurry that he left his outer cloak behind. As you might suspect, they took the real High Priest to the pretend high priest. There congregated were the priests, professors, and patriarchs gathered to accuse the Sovereign, the King of Kings, the Creator of the universe. Simon Peter tagged along at a distance, settling right into the yard of the high priest. Sitting with the guards, he warmed himself at the fire.

- Q Why didn't Jesus the Christ simply leave Gethsemane?
- Q Why did Judas betray Jesus? More importantly, why do you? When were you sleeping when you should have been awake and praying? When did you desert the Christ?
- Q Why wasn't Yeshua arrested earlier in town? About what would they have rioted?
- Q Was Jesus of Nazareth leading a rebellion or not? On what side would you argue—prosecution or defense?

Mark 14:55-72 *Jesus the Anointed is Accused.*

The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin were looking for evidence to justify killing Jesus. They were unable because some testimony was false and the remaining testimony had no corroboration.

Even testimony about the Christ claiming He would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days could not be corroborated.

Then the high priest, Caiaphas, got into it— Aren't you going to defend yourself against this testimony? Yeshua was quiet—He knew what was happening. Steam rose—Are you the Christ, the Son of the One Who is Praised [blessed]? Jesus gave the answer which thundered through time—(εγω ειμι)

I AM

*and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the One Who is Praised,<sup>14</sup> coming on the clouds of heaven.*

Caiaphas was beside himself—this was blasphemy with a capital B. Tearing his clothes to demonstrate his anger, they all concluded this Yeshua from Nazareth was worthy of death. They spat on Him. Blindfolded Him,<sup>15</sup> struck Him with their fists and taunted Him—Prophecy! Then the guards took Him and beat Him.

All the while the Rock stood by below; a servant girl of Caiaphas came by. "Hey aren't you with that Nazarene, Yeshua?" Simon the Rock wasn't stupid—No, I don't even know what you're talking about.

## MARK 14:55-72

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. <sup>56</sup>Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

<sup>57</sup>Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: <sup>58</sup>"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.' "

<sup>59</sup>Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

<sup>60</sup>Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" <sup>61</sup>But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

<sup>62</sup>"I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

<sup>63</sup>The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. <sup>64</sup>"You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death. <sup>65</sup>Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took him and beat him.

<sup>66</sup>While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. <sup>67</sup>When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

"You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said.

<sup>68</sup>But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway.<sup>G</sup>

<sup>69</sup>When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." <sup>70</sup>Again he denied it. After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean."

<sup>71</sup>He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about."

<sup>72</sup>Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

<sup>14</sup>This Son of Man saying brings together Daniel 7:13-14 and Psalm 110:1—

⌘ "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed." —Daniel 7:13-14

⌘ "The Lord Our God, Yahweh says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." —Psalm 110:1

<sup>15</sup>An old interpretation of Isaiah 11:2-4 held that the Messiah could judge by smell without the aid of sight.

The girl told the others, “He’s one of them.” And, again Peter denied knowing anything about Yeshua.<sup>16</sup> Later some in the crowd recognized his accent—surely you’re one of them—you’re a Galilean. This time, Simon Peter the Rock became sand. Cursing himself and swearing an oath to affirm his truthfulness, he said I don’t know this man about whom you are talking.

The rooster crowed. Peter broke down. And wept.



- Q Why didn't Caiaphas call the Lord Our God, God? [He called Him the “Praised One.”]
- Q What did the Son of Man, Yeshua from Nazareth, the Christ call Himself?
- Q Why did Simon the Rock (Peter) deny any affiliation with this Yeshua of Nazareth? [The answer is within you.] Why did he (do you) even stick around?

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<sup>16</sup>Mark quotes Peter as saying, “I don't know or understand what you're talking about.” In Jewish law, this was common language to use for a formal, legal denial.