

APRIL 28, 2024

# LOVE & BETRAYAL

Pastor Jason Uptmore // Mark 14:1-11



## PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread were two days away; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize Him by stealth and kill Him; 2 for they were saying, "Not during the festival, otherwise there might be a riot of the people."

3 While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head. 4 But some were indignantly remarking to one another, "Why has this perfume been wasted? 5 For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they were scolding her. 6 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me. 7 For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them; but you do not always have Me. 8 She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial. 9 Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."

10 Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went off to the chief priests in order to betray Him to them. 11 They were glad when they heard this, and promised to give him money. And he began seeking how to betray Him at an opportune time.



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## REFLECT/CONNECT

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- In what ways were you encouraged by last week's study?

- What's the most expensive thing you've ever purchased?

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

## GROW IN THE WORD

**01.** Prior to the Passover, the religious leaders conspired together to murder Jesus. Later, Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, sought those religious leaders out in order to hand Jesus over to them. From that point on, Judas looked for a chance to betray Jesus (v. 1-2, 10-11).

- What stands out to you about the characters involved in the plot to kill Jesus, and how would you have expected them to act?

## GROW IN THE WORD

- What do you think drives people to pursue and commit evil acts like the ones described in these verses?

- How can you ensure that your choices are not driven by things like greed, selfish ambition, or pride? See 1 Timothy 6:9-10; James 4:6-10.

**02. During a meal at Simon the leper's home, a woman poured an exceedingly costly bottle of perfume on Jesus. This angered the disciples who questioned why the perfume was wasted rather than sold and used to help the poor. Jesus defended and commended the woman, promising that her act would be remembered everywhere the gospel is proclaimed (v. 3-9).**

- How would you describe this woman, and how would you contrast her to the disciples, to Judas Iscariot, and to the religious leaders?

# GROW IN THE WORD

- What do you believe drove the woman to such a seemingly excessive act, and why do you think Jesus honored her so greatly? See John 12:2-3; Luke 10:38-42; John 11:31-32.

- In what ways can we imitate Mary and cultivate the type of devotion she displayed to Jesus?

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WORSHIP NIGHT

May 1 | 7 - 8 pm | Worship Center

Join us at the first of our Summer Worship Nights as we pursue community, growth, and renewal through song and prayer. All ages are invited and we look forward to worshipping with you the first Wednesday of each month this summer!

### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 2 | Times & Locations Vary

Join us for the National Day of Prayer as we lift up the needs of our families, communities, and nation together. We'll have three different opportunities for you to get involved in prayer right here in San Antonio. Learn more or in our mobile app and join us in prayer!

# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pray to begin your group time. Remind the group why you are meeting: to connect in meaningful relationships, to grow spiritually, and to engage in the life and work of the church together. Reflect on the values you want to share as a group (i.e. confidentiality, authenticity, grace).

## CONNECT (30-40 MIN)

You can use these suggestions to foster connection and build community in your group. You can break your group into smaller parts if needed, pick a question to discuss, and let each member get to know one another.

- Spend a few minutes catching up with one another. Share highs and lows from the previous week.
- Pick one of the Reflect/Connect questions in the passage guide or an icebreaker to begin your discussion.

## GROW (30-40 MIN)

Gather back as a big group if you broke up earlier and have one person pray over your time discussing God's word. As you discuss, don't worry if there are questions left unanswered or unresolved. Reach out to ministry leaders or pastors for any needed clarification.

- Select 2-3 questions from each section. Take time to answer the questions together as a group if members haven't answered them independently.
- Read any cross-references together and discuss.

## ENGAGE (30-40 MIN)

Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week and discuss a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in smaller groups of 2-4 again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

- Spend time reflecting on how to apply this passage to your life. Pray together and seek God's guidance to lead you to apply His Word.
- Close the group time by sharing prayer requests and praying for one another. Take time to praise God for any ways you've seen Him work recently.