

many signs. 48 "If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and **the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.**

One important note about God's sovereign **control** of the whole arrest and crucifixion ordeal is that they didn't want to **kill Jesus during the feast**, but apparently hoped to seize Him and do it afterward, "**2 for they were saying, "Not during the festival, lest there be a riot of the people."** But God had appointed the Passover Feast for the day that the **Passover Lamb** would be sacrificed, right on time on the very high Sabbath day of the Passover itself. This of course is going to happen **right on time**, and Jesus our Passover Lamb, will be sacrificed precisely on the Passover according to the Divine Plan.

Mark 14:3-9 - 3 And 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 the poor you always have with you, and whenever you wish, you can do them good; but you do not always have Me. 8 "She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial. 9 "And truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, that also which this woman has done shall be spoken of in memory of her."

This **interesting** part of the **text** is actually something that happened earlier in the week when Jesus had arrived in **Bethany**. It is not in the **chronological order** of events. It appears that Mark has included it here to add to His new focus upon the events leading to Jesus death and burial. "**3 And 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.**" Take note that "**Simon the leper**" has a group of Jesus' disciples at his house. By this we assume that he must be **someone** that **Jesus had healed of leprosy**, for no leper could mingle among the common people as they were quarantined outside the contact of the community. It was during their time of eating and fellowship that Mary does this **beautiful** and extravagant act of **anointing Jesus** with some very costly perfume. John reveals that it was Mary.

John 12:3 - 3 **Mary therefore took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus,** and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. NASB

Surely **Mary's heart of devotion** to Jesus is bright and shining, especially as this perfume was very costly in the amount of about a **year's wages** of that time. We might compare to something \$50,000 in today's wages. **"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."** Mary's extravagant worship of Jesus is a moment of beauty in during a week of tragic ugliness. And the text says, that **"some were indignant."** It is a wonder that some people are **offended** when other people **worship God** with much **ardency** and fervor, indeed they become **envious** and jealous. Is this not the very reason that Cain killed Able? That Cain was jealous about **Able's joy in worshipping God** with a **costly sacrifice**, and also jealous that God was pleased with Able? The truth here of course, is that it was **Judas Iscariot**, who apparently incited some others, who together began **"scolding her."**

John 12:4-6 - 4 But **Judas Iscariot**, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii, and given to poor people?" 6 **Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.** NASB

Let us learn here to check our motives when we are taken back by the devotion of others to Christ. Jesus here **comments** helping us to see the **truth** is this brief and tense moment during the fellowship of His disciples. **"6 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me. 7 "For the poor you always have with you, and whenever you wish, you can do them good; but you do not always have Me. 8 "She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial. 9 "And truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, that also which this woman has done shall be spoken of in memory of her."** The ESV renders verse 6, **"she has done a beautiful thing to me,"** indicating Jesus pleasure and approval of Mary's actions as not only good, but **"beautiful."** Indeed, it is a thing of **beauty** when people are giving **praises** and **worship** unto the Father and the Son, and these are the things that we **saints** should **laud** and **adore**. Jesus here also affirms that **seeking** the **good** of the **poor** is a **good thing** and ought to be sought from us. But so pleased is he with Mary's actions, He not only **reproves** the **disciples** saying **"Let her alone; why do you bother her?,"** but He believes her devoted worship to be so pleasing He would have it to be spoken of as a memorial forever saying, **"wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, that also which this woman has done shall be spoken of in memory of her."** Let us be like Mary with an ardent heart of devotion and love toward Jesus, and not quick to judge others when we see them worshipping in an extravagant way.

Mark 14:10-11 - 10 And Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went off to the chief priests, in order to betray Him to them. 11 And 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.

You remember that the **“1 chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize Him by stealth, and kill Him,** but they didn’t want to **kill Jesus during the feast,** but apparently hoped to seize Him and do it afterward **“2 for they were saying, "Not during the festival, lest there be a riot of the people.”** Yet God had appointed **Christ** to be the **Passover Lamb,** and **appointed the day** of His sacrifice. So the occasion of the betrayal of Judas was in their mind a perfect way to **“seize Him by stealth, and kill Him”** after the feast. If Judas could inform them of a good time and place, since he knew where Jesus and the twelve would be, this accorded their wicked plan. **“10 And Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went off to the chief priests, in order to betray Him to them.”** Of this occasion Luke adds that **“Satan entered Judas.”**

Luke 22:3 - And **Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot,** belonging to the number of the twelve.” NASB

On this darkest of nights, when this **most evil** of all **deeds** takes place, **Satan** himself is there to see his most evil act committed under his personal direction. And yet the Lord Himself has chosen this **most evil act** of the **Cross** to be the very apex of **Triumph** over evil, Satan, death and hell. Oh the wisdom and knowledge of God! What Satan means for harm, God will turn for good. **“11 And 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.”** Alas, Judas, **“who was one of the twelve,”** being a **thief** (for all along he had pillaged the money box), was willing to **betray** His Lord for **money,** as Matthew records, was **30 pieces of silver** in fulfillment of Zechariah’s prophecy (Zech 11:12-13).

Matthew 26:15-16 - 15 and said, "What are you willing to give me to deliver Him up to you?" **And they weighed out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Him.** NASB

What a **tragic** and ugly deed by one of Jesus very twelve. Yet Jesus knew all along that He was going to be **betrayed by Judas,** and yet He loved and bore with Him, undoubtedly with great **patience.**

John 6:70-71 - 70 Jesus answered them, "Did I **Myself not choose you,** the twelve, and **yet one of you is a devil?" 71 Now He meant Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray Him.** NASB

Notice also the **conspiracy** of the wicked “**chief priests and the scribes,**” who are willing to **bribe** one of their own countrymen to betray his own **Rabbi**, so that they might carry out their secret plot. Their **religious system** was **corrupt** at many levels including conspiracies to murder even well-known Rabbis.

Mark 14:12-21 - 12 And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed, His disciples said to Him, "Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?" 13 And He sent two of His disciples, and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; 14 and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' 15 "And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; and prepare for us there." 16 And the disciples went out, and came to the city, and found it just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

Now it is **Thursday** of **Passion Week**, Nisan 14, AD 30, the day before Jesus was crucified, **Good Friday**. “**12 And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed, His disciples said to Him, "Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?"**” The first day of Feast of Unleavened Bread, could refer to either Thursday or Friday, for Passover lambs were **sacrificed** on both days. This is because some Jews celebrated on Thursday, and others on Friday. Conservative scholars, in view of all four Gospels place this day on Thursday. The **Feast of Unleavened Bread** started the day after Passover and continued for 7 days. Either way, Jesus intends to celebrate the Passover on Thursday with His disciples, for He will be sacrificed on Friday. “**13 And He sent two of His disciples, and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; 14 and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"' 15 "And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; and prepare for us there." 16 And the disciples went out, and came to the city, and found it just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover.**” Jesus had apparently made arrangements for a place to eat this **Last Supper** with His **disciples**. It was an occasion near and dear to His heart, which He had obviously anticipated for some time.

Luke 22:15-16 - 15 And He said to them, **"I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;** 16 for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. " NASB

The **Cross** is quickly **approaching** and the disciples seem to be largely **unaware**, even though **Jesus** has been **preparing** them for several months that this would