

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 33: Mark 14:1-26

Intrigue and anointing (vv. 1-11)

- Another example of intercalation in Mark's gospel
- The Jewish leaders thought they would have to wait to arrest Jesus
 - God uses Judas to keep things on His timetable
- The treachery of Jesus' enemies is juxtaposed with Mary's devotion
 - John identifies her (and Judas) in his account of the anointing
 - This act, whether she knows it or not, anticipates Jesus' death
- Spikenard was a perfume imported from India, hence its value

What is Jesus' point about the poor always being there?

Based on the surrounding context, what was Judas' human motivation?

Matt. 26:1-16
Luke 22:1-6
John 11:45-53,
12:1-8

The Lord's Supper (vv. 12-26)

- While not critical to the narrative, there is considerable debate about the timeline of Jesus' last week
- Jesus gives His disciples an odd signal to find the upper room

Why would they need to use such an unusual method to find the room?

Matt. 26:17-29
Luke 22:7-23
John 13:21-30
1 Cor. 11:23-26

- The majority(?) opinion is that they are eating the Passover meal
 - The meal had to be eaten in Jerusalem
 - The bread and the cup line up with elements of the Passover seder
 - In the seder, unleavened bread is dipped into a bowl of stewed fruit
- Dipping bread together denotes proximity and also fellowship
 - This makes Judas' betrayal all the more shocking
- There are four cups in the Passover seder, related to Exodus 6:6-7
 - "I will bring you out", "I will rescue you from bondage", "I will redeem you", and "I will take you for My people"
 - Many scholars believe Jesus uses the third cup to represent His blood
 - Not drinking the fourth cup is a promise of our future with Him
- The hymn is probably Psalm 118 (Hallel psalms sung during the seder)

What does Jesus mean by "This is My body" and "This is My blood"?