



# **FOLLOW ME A SERIES IN MARK PART TWO**

**COMMUNITY GROUP STUDIES**

# FOLLOW ME

In the first half of Mark's Gospel, the focus was: Who is this man? Now in the second half of Mark, the focus is: What has he come to do? Everything in the second half of Mark's Gospel is leading to Jesus' cross, and leading his disciples to understand the significance of his death. Because Jesus knew that it wasn't going to be easy for them to understand.

Because he's a king who enters Jerusalem on a donkey and not a chariot. Because he's a king whose followers betrayed, abandoned and denied him. Because he's a king who was rejected by all the religious powers at the time. Because he's a king who died the most shameful death imaginable. Although, through the eyes of faith, none of these things negated his claims at being the Messiah, but instead affirmed them! As Jesus has been teaching all along, his death is part of God's sovereign purpose and plan to provide an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world (Mark 10:45). The victory of this king comes through sacrifice, suffering, death, and



resurrection, and everyone with eyes to see this would follow him to the cross (Mark 8:34), knowing that the cross is the throne of their king, where true life is found.



The background image shows a scene of ancient stone ruins, likely in Jerusalem. In the foreground, there are large, weathered stone blocks and steps. In the middle ground, there are more stone walls and structures, some with arched windows. Two large, mature trees with dense green foliage are prominent, their branches extending over the ruins. The sky is clear and blue.

WEEK 9

# THE FIRST SUPPER

Mark 14:1-26



14:1 It was two days before the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a cunning way to arrest Jesus and kill him. 2 "Not during the festival," they said, "so that there won't be a riot among the people."

3 While he was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured it on his head. 4 But some were expressing indignation to one another: "Why has this perfume been wasted? 5 For this perfume might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they began to scold her. 6 Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a noble thing for me. 7 You always have the poor with you, and you can do what is good for them whenever you want, but you do not always have me. 8 She has done what she could; she has anointed my body in advance for burial. 9 Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her." 10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. 11 And when they heard this, they were glad and promised to give him money. So he started looking for a good opportunity to betray him.

12 On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrifice the Passover lamb, his disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare the Passover so that you may eat it?" 13 So he sent two of his disciples and told them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. 14 Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"'" 15 He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there." 16 So the disciples went out, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover. 17 When evening came, he arrived with the Twelve. 18 While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me." 19 They began to be distressed and to say to him one by one, "Surely not I?" 20 He said to them, "It is one of the Twelve—the one who is dipping bread in the bowl with me. 21 For the Son of Man will go just as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for him if he had not been born."

22 As they were eating, he took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." 23 Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. 25 Truly I tell you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." 26 After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

# STUDY QUESTIONS



## DISCOVER

What’s interesting here? What do you learn? What don’t you understand?

In this passage, we get two stories that help us understand Jesus’ death: the woman with the perfume (verses 3-9), and the first Lord’s supper (12-26).

Brainstorm together: How do these stories prepare the scene for Jesus’ death?

Woman with the perfume	The Lord’s Supper
How does this story prepare the scene for Jesus’ death?	

In both scenes, there are people who faithfully serve Jesus, and there are people who fail to love Jesus, because all they can think of is money. Go through both scenes and think: What does it look like for people to faithfully serve Jesus in this scene? What does it look like for people to fail to love Jesus, because their minds are too focused on money?

Woman with the perfume	The Lord’s Supper
Who faithfully serves Jesus? Who fails to love Jesus, because their minds are too focused on money?	

Why do the people in the story love Jesus? Why do the others not love Jesus?

The passage starts with Jesus' disciples getting ready to eat the Passover. Read Exodus 12:1-12. How does the blood of the lamb save the Israelites here?

What parallels are there between what happened in the original Passover and what Jesus did on the Cross?

In Mark 14:24, Jesus says he's establishing a new covenant. What's this covenant based on? How does that help Israel, and also us?



## **NURTURE**

**What do you love in this passage? How can we see God's character here?**

Have you ever been critical when you've seen someone giving up something significant for Jesus?

How do thoughts about money get in the way of your love of Jesus?

Read verses 22-24 again slowly. How should these words give us hope in our lives—and when we take the Lord's Supper?



CT

**How should we live differently because of these words? What is one thing in this passage that really stirs you to act?**

What have you learned about Jesus' death for you in the passage today? How can that change your life this week?

How can you be more intentional about bringing your whole life and heart and sin to God when you next take the Lord's Supper?

Spend some time together thanking God that the blood of Jesus allows his judgment to "pass over" us. Thank God that we have a new identity in Jesus, and that we'd live as people who belong to him in every facet of our lives. And ask God that the truth of his Gospel will keep on sinking into our hearts more deeply.



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