

Mark 14:1-11 – The Jewish Conspiracy 阴谋 to Kill Jesus

TSK, GreekLexicon, Handfuls, Rienecker, Robertson, JFB, Geneva, Barnes, Clarke, Abbot, Poole, PNT, Henry, Gill, Gaebelin, Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus stood in the way of the Jewish priests maintaining their power, prestige (名望), and prosperity. So they wanted Jesus dead-urgently -and they were willing to work to make it happen. This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

Conspiracy to kill Jesus Urgently

Criticism of Jesus and his Followers

Collusion by Judas with the Priest (祭司)

Our goals are: That you will rejoice that though the Jews conspired to kill Jesus, he willingly gave his life for you, that you will tell this message to those outside the church, and that you will fight against all those who are betraying the Lord from inside the church.

Conspiracy to Kill Jesus Urgently

1 After two days it was the Passover逾越节 and the Feast of Unleavened Bread除酵节. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery诡计 and put Him to death. 2 But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar骚乱 of the people."

1. The Jewish religious leaders did not like the fact that Jesus threatened their power, prestige, and prosperity.

How was Jesus a threat to the Jewish leaders? Jesus spoke the truth. He was truth personified人格化的. And Jesus spoke against legalistic and formalistic obedience to the law. He insisted that a man must have a personal relationship with God through faith and true repentance and then do good works! And more recently, Jesus predicted the destruction of the temple, the seat of Jewish power. So they then urgently conspired to kill him.

2. Because Jesus was quite popular with the ordinary people, the Jewish leaders had to arrange some deceitful way of accusing, arresting, and killing him, and they especially couldn't do this during a religious holiday.

They knew it would cause an uproar. (There were hundreds of thousands of people in Jerusalem for this feast (节期); the population more than doubled.) And they knew that people tend to be more emotional during special times. (Think how angry others get with a man who breaks off a relationship with a girlfriend on Valentine's Day, or worse, on Christmas Day!)

And yet, providentially (在神的护理之工下), God wanted Jesus to be there during the Feast of the Unleavened Bread to be betrayed and killed so that his people would understand that he was the real Passover.

3. Lessons:

a. While man cannot put Christ to death today, there are many who would like to destroy Christ's kingdom – his church – and will stop at nothing to do so. Let me illustrate. Outside the church: A legislator (立法者) in California tried to pass a law that would forbid any speech that condemns homosexuality (同性性行为) and/or criticize people who don't want to be the sex in which God made them. The law passed in principle but he withdrew the bill because of protests (抗议). He plans to bring it up again next year. Inside the church: The TNIV (Today's New International Version of the Bible, which is not a Bible at all but it is used in many churches, takes away godly order in the family by trying to eliminate gender references. Even the term "Son of Man," the title Jesus used most often to describe himself, was unacceptable to these people at the International Bible Society and Zondervan Publishers. Their expressed purpose was to correct the Bible! These are attacks on Christ's church! Some were trying to remove the term "Son of God" because it was offensive to Muslims. Conspiracies to destroy the church are everywhere!

b. These people who are bent on destroying the church would use trickery, even as the Jews did to try to kill Jesus. They try to make the church a lion without teeth – a form with no substance.

c. But you need Jesus. He is the Real Passover, pictured in the Lord's Supper (圣餐)! He had to die. And if you eat of him you live. The more you eat, the stronger you get. Without him in your life you will be destroyed by the angel of death.

Criticism of Jesus and his Followers

3 And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper (长大麻风的), as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask (玉瓶, 雪花石膏瓶) of very costly oil of spikenard (真哪哒香膏). Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head.

1. In Bethany (House of misery or hospital) at Simon's house, as Jesus sat at a table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of expensive perfume, opened it, and poured it on Jesus' head – all of it.

Who was this woman? Her name was Mary, a common name of the time. It was likely either Mary Magdalene or Mary,

Lazarus' sister. Mary means "bitterness." (苦)

What is spikenard? It is a native plant of India that is used to make a sweet smelling perfume.

4 But there were some who were indignant (愤慨的) among themselves, and said, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted? 5 "For it might have been sold for **more than three hundred denarii** and given to the poor." And they criticized her sharply.

2. Many people became upset that this woman did this as this was very costly perfume; they felt this was wasteful.

How expensive was this perfume? About 1 years wage for an average person! Can you imagine someone taking a \$50,000 bottle of perfume and pouring it, all of it, one time, on someone's head? That's what she did. So people thought she could have sold it and gave the money to the poor. This was what the wicked Judas thought.

John 12:4 Then one of His disciples, **Judas Iscariot**, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 5 "**Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?**" 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but **because he was a thief**, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

No wonder he quickly left to betray Jesus!

6 But Jesus said, "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? **She has done a good work for Me.** 7 "**For you have the poor with you always**, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. 8 "She has done **what she could**. She has come beforehand to **anoint (膏抹) My body for burial**. 9 "Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

3. Instead of Jesus agreeing with them, he rebuked them, telling them to leave the woman alone and stop with the nasty looks!

Why would Jesus say allow this woman to spend all this money on him?

a. This was a good work. Bringing honor to the Savior (救主) is always a good work. Yes, you must do good others, but there would always be others who need help. The Lord was going to leave soon.

Deuteronomy 15:11 "For **the poor will never cease from the land...**"

b. It was her perfume. This was in her power to do.

c. This was a beautiful picture of the providence (护理之工) of God to prepare Jesus for his burial, though Mary likely only did this for love of the Savior. That type of oily perfume would serve as a kind of embalming (防腐) liquid.

d. Giving to God always brings returns. God said, test me and see if I will not open the windows of blessing and shower my blessings of you if you give.

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes (什一奉献) into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts (万军之耶和华) , "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it.

This woman's return would include a godly name that would be preserved forever. Yes, the woman's perfume would preserve Jesus' body, but **her good work, which was a sweet smelling savor to God, would preserve her memory!** Matthew Henry: **She lost neither her oil nor her labor.** *She got by it that good name which is better than precious ointment膏油. Those that honor Christ he will honor.* Ecclesiastes 7:1: A good name is better than precious ointment...

4. Lessons:

a. Can you imagine how difficult it must have been for Jesus to go to dinner (and to a house of a former leper) knowing that in a few days he would be crucified (被钉十字架) ? Yet he did it. It was love for the lost that drove him there.

b. Don't say: If I work on Sunday and get double pay I can help the poor. Worship is more important than the poor. The poor will always be around! And yet, the Lord will take care of the poor, if you worship him. Seneca, a Roman stoic philosopher (斯托克派的哲学家) used to mock Christians and the Jews for keeping the Sabbath (安息日) . He said that it was a waste of 1/7 of the week. But it surely wasn't. Thank God Christians remained faithful! Only if you think people are more important than Christ would you serve man ahead of Christ. Can you give too much to Christ for all he has done for you?

Psalm 116:12 What shall I render to the LORD For all His benefits toward me? 13 I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the LORD. 14 I will pay my vows to the LORD Now in the presence of all His people.

c. Is your life a memorial to Jesus? Will others remember what you have done for Jesus? You must be a memorial – not the kind made of cement (水泥) and stone that fall apart or that people can tear down and crush with hammers!

d. Covetousness (贪婪) can be disguised (被伪装) as a zeal of charity.

Collusion by Judas with the Priests

10 Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them.

1. Judas then went and arranged with the chief priests to betray Jesus, even negotiating the price for this wicked act.

Judas, the treasurer (管财务的人) of Jesus' ministry, was not upset because he believed that that money was wasted. He was upset because he was a thief and he had no opportunity to steal from the large amount of money. So Judas became a **spiritual prostitute (属灵上的娼妓)** who sold himself to the Devil. **Oh, what a sin of mature deliberation (深思熟虑)!**

And consider this: Who asked for Judas to go? No one! He chose to go! He had no pressure! David spoke of Judas!
Psalms 41:9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.

11 And when they heard it, **they were glad**, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.

2. The chief priests were happy to get the assistance of one of the “insiders.” (内奸)

It appears from Matthew that before Judas left, the priests weighed out the money and gave it to him – 30 pieces of silver. He was paid before he did the work. (They so badly wanted to kill Jesus!)

Thirty pieces of silver was the purchase price for a slave. Jesus was treated as equal to a slave. The sweet Savior was treated as a common slave.

Isaiah 53:11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

And imagine that: **The priests got joy knowing they would kill someone!**

Zechariah 11:12 Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.

What a contrast these men were from **Mary who gave her most precious gift to the Lord!**

3. Judas then started looking for a convenient time to betray the Lord, and it wouldn't take long!

Remember how the priests wanted to wait until after the Feast of the Unleavened Bread to try to arrest Jesus? Well Judas promised to do so during the feast, not wait until after. (No wonder they weighed out the money right away!)

4. Lessons:

a. There are always those like Judas who assist those who want to destroy the church. Example: Many liberal so-called Christian scholars have been used by Muslims to try to undermine (破坏) the teaching of Christ. These scholars deny the necessity of the atonement (代赎), the crucifixion, and the resurrection! An article from several years ago featured some American professors who attacked the validity and purity of the Scriptures with some Muslim groups and were then rewarded with trips (旅游) and trinkets (廉价珠宝) to the Middle East. These professors simply called it “mutual exploitation.” (相互利用) But they were hurting Christ's church, conspiring with the Devil's people.

b. There are those who are obsessed with, as one man said, “back, belly, and building,” – clothes, food, and housing. Money is their ultimate goal. But there is much more to life than these things.

c. Because Mary poured perfume on Jesus she was remembered for thousands of years and people have praised her good work, **but the work that Judas did has gone down in infamy (恶名昭彰) as the worse betrayal (背叛) in the history of the world!** Pray that no one will remember you this way.

d. Guard your hearts so that you are not tempted to lust for wealth; guard each other's heart.

Conclusion:

The Jews conspired to kill Jesus and waited for an opportune (适当的) time to do so. The people in Simon's house criticized Jesus for allowing expensive perfume to be “wasted.” Because of this, Judas colluded with the Jews to betray and then kill Jesus. But even as they thought they were getting rid of Jesus, **they were fulfilling God's promise of sending a Savior to die for the world's sin!**

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Pray for those who are conspiring against Christ's church. Stand up to them. Challenge them to change.

2. Don't let people stop you from serving your Savior. Give him your best. Worship him with love and adoration. Sing sweetly to him. Teach your children to worship him. Let the fragrance of the Gospel go with you.

3. And let your life have the aroma of life so the world can be drawn to Jesus.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, Jesus offers you the effect of his death: Freedom from eternal death, that inheritance you can receive from your Father in heaven. I pray to God that you will accept it.