

Life Group Questions midlandevangelicalfreechurch midlandfree.org



Date: 2022.01.30

Scripture: Mark 14:1-9

Mark 14:1-9 (ESV)

It was now two days before the *Passover* and *the Feast of Unleavened Bread*.

And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest JESUS by stealth and kill him,

2 for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people."

3 And while he was at **Bethany** in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table,

<u>a woman</u> came with an <u>alabaster</u> flask of ointment of pure <u>nard</u>, very **COSTLY**, and

she **broke** the flask and **poured** it over his head.

4 There were some who said to themselves indignantly,

"Why was the ointment **wasted** like that? **5** For this ointment could have been sold for more than <u>three hundred denarii</u> and given to the poor." And they scolded her.

6 But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her?

She has done a **beautiful** thing to me.

7 For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them.

But you will not always have me.

8 She has done what she could;

she has anointed my body beforehand for burial.

9 And truly, I say to you, wherever the Gospel is proclaimed in the whole world,

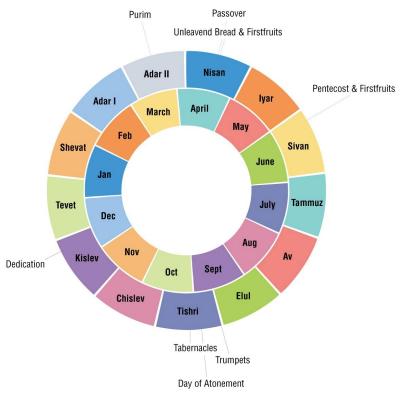
what she has done will be told in memory of her."

- 1. Costly
- 2. Beautiful
- 3. Gospel





- Where are we picking up in the Gospel of Mark?
- What has happened up until this point?
- What is "the Passover?" What are its historical roots?
- Have you ever participated in a Seder minner?
- Please describe it
- How does the Feast of Unleavened Bread connect to the Passover?



Israelite Feasts

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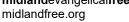


(See map on next page.)

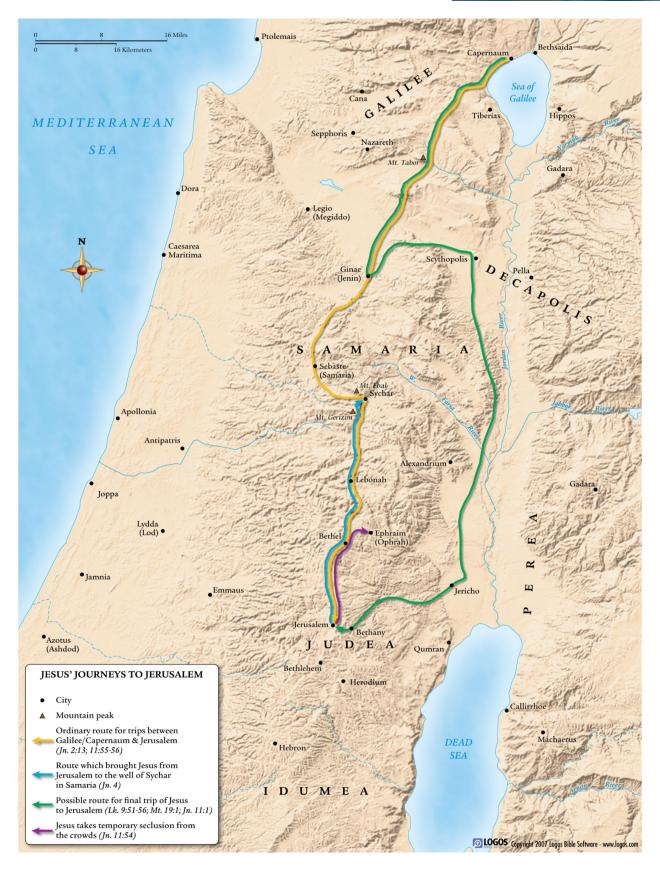
- Where is the small township of Bethany located (Northern or Southern Israel)?
- What is an inland body of water nearby?
- What big city is nearby?
- Besides Simon the Leper, who else lived in Bethany (Luke 10:38-42)?
- What other **BIG** events happened in this small town of Bethany (John 11, Mark 11, Luke 24:50-53)?



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What is the significance of the terms "broke" and "poured," and how do they connect to other symbols of Jesus 'sacrifice? (Hint: Read further down in this chapter – like Mark 14:22, cf. Hebrews 9:22.)ⁱ

How does her act connect to the proclamation of the Gospel? (vs. 9)

What are some of the reasons that make this woman's act of anointing Jesus beautiful?

What is something beautiful that you could do for Jesus?

Extravagant love leads to extravagant giving. What well-known Bible verse communicates this truth in a nutshell?

The Gospel comes as a result of God giving. We receive the Good News of Jesus' victory over sin and death, resulting in the forgiveness of our sins, a new birth into eternal life, and the promise of the Kingdom Come. God so loved the world that He gave us everything. How does this impact your heart? What does it motivate you to do?

What are the ways to give to your local church? Which one do you use?

Which character in the story better represents your initial reaction to giving, the woman's or the disciples'?

What are some practical steps you can take to change this?

Are you currently giving to your local church?

Does your giving percentage represent a beautiful, Gospel-generated response to the costly love of God?



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ⁱ Broken and Spilled Out

Artist: Steve Green. Album: Steve Green 1984 Songwriters: Bill George / Gloria Gaither Broken and Spilled Out lyrics © Capitol CMG Publishing

One day a plain village woman Driven by love for her Lord Recklessly poured out a valuable essence Disregarding the scorn And once it was broken and spilled out A fragrance filled all the room Like a pris'ner released from his shackles Like a spirit set free from the tomb Broken and spilled out Just for love of you, Jesus My most precious treasure Lavished on Thee

Broken and spilled out And poured at Your feet In sweet abandon Let me be spilled out And used up for Thee

Lord, You were God's precious treasure His loved and His own perfect Son Sent here to show me The love of the Father Just for love it was done And though You were perfect and holy You gave up Yourself willingly You spared no expense for my pardon You were used up and wasted for me

Broken and spilled out Just for love of me, Jesus God's most precious treasure Lavished on me You were broken and spilled out And poured at my feet

In sweet abandon Lord You were spilled out and used up for Me In sweet abandon, let me be spilled out And used up for Thee