

Mark: The Way of Jesus

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 9/11/2022

Mark 14:1-11 – “You Cannot Stay Neutral Towards a King Like Jesus” by Taylor Sutton

Overview

In the week leading up to Jesus' execution, it was increasingly clear that things were turning against him. His direct and public confrontations with the Jerusalem religious leaders had only deepened their preexisting hostility toward Jesus. The walls are closing in around him, and Jesus knows it. He knows that the end is just a few days away. And it's at that ominous moment that Mark relates a story showing how people respond to Jesus. Now, Mark has highlighted people's responses to Jesus before. But this moment is unique in its proximity to the crucifixion. In the shadow of the cross, how will people respond to Jesus? We see in this text four responses to Jesus:

1. Rejecting Jesus (v1, 2)
2. Worshipping Jesus (v3-9)
3. Underestimating Jesus (v3-9)
4. Abandoning Jesus (v10,11)

Discussion Questions

- 1) We've seen throughout Mark's gospel account that very early on the religious leaders of the day wanted Jesus killed. Why did the religious establishment not just reject Jesus, but want him killed? Why was Jesus such a threat? Discuss examples you see in current events where a person or a group has their power or influence threatened, and what their response to the threat is (there is nothing new under the sun).
- 2) Jesus is bringing a kingdom and that kingdom always provokes hostility from the kingdoms of this world. In what ways do you see today that Christ's kingdom is still being rejected? In what ways can you see in yourself a rejection of the kingship of the Lord Jesus? If you do find areas in your own life where you are rejecting Jesus, what should you do?
- 3) In verse 3, a woman takes an expensive ointment and pours it over the head of Jesus. How did this act of anointing Jesus show her heart towards him? What kind of reaction did she get from the other followers of Jesus? How did Jesus respond to this profound act of worship? Does Jesus contradict his own teaching about helping the poor?
- 4) Taylor mentioned how it's possible that Christians can lose their wonderment about the death and resurrection of Jesus because we are exposed to it so frequently. Indeed the whole of human history hinges on the reality of Jesus, namely his death and resurrection. Do you find yourself perhaps growing numb to these profound historical events? If yes, is there anything you can do to address your apathy or lack of awe?
- 5) In verses 10 and 11 we see Judas abandoning Jesus by turning him over to the religious authorities. Why do you think Judas turned his back on Jesus? Are there any ways that our own behavior, even in a subtle way, demonstrate that we might be turning our backs on Jesus?
- 6) One important part of Judas' betrayal is showing that proximity to Jesus did not (and does not today) make him a follower of Jesus. What does make someone a true follower of Christ?