

## A Devotion and A Prayer

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matt. 6:19-21).*

It's almost a human reflex to think that greater obedience to God guarantees that we will have a problem-free family, material comforts, and a successful career. But that's clearly not the case for many persecuted or impoverished believers throughout history or across our present world. Our reflex mistake is trying to assess God's faithfulness by earthly measures rather than eternal blessings. Not all Christians will have what the world most treasures, because worldly things are not what God most treasures.

The blessings of living for Christ will always include being able to look in the mirror without shame, having spiritual peace in a troubled world, and absolute confidence that God is working all things for the eternal good of those who love him.

Righteousness, peace, and eternal joy are the blessings God grants his people that the world cannot grant nor take away. Be encouraged today – even if it's a tough day – knowing that you can always trust in the perfect plan and gracious provision of your eternal God!

### **Prayer:**

*Lord, please help me not to assess your faithfulness by earthly measures. Rather teach me the certainty, beauty, and eternity of your spiritual blessings that the world can neither give nor take away.*



March 13, 2022

10:30 A.M.

## The Plot and The Party



*Mark 14:3 (ESV)*

*And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head.*

# Order of Service

## Announcements

### Welcome

### Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

### Call To Worship

**Hymn of Praise:** "1000 Tongues"

. . . . . Rozler/Tomlin/Ingram/Myrin/Maher/Redman

### Prayer of Invocation

**Affirmation of Faith:** The Westminster Shorter Catechism

### Song of Praise

"Holy, Holy, Holy". . . . . Heber/Dykes

### Children are dismissed to Sunday School.

----- God's Renewal-----

### Understanding Ourselves Rightly

**Public Confession:** *Adapted from the Book of Common Worship, 1946*

### Silent Confession

**Assurance of Pardon and Comfort:** Ephesians 1:7

**Song of Renewal:** "Grace Wins". . . . .Matthew West

-----God's Grace-----

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 14:1–11 (ESV)

### Prayer

### The Sermon

"The Plot and the Party"

### Song of Communion

"The Power of the Cross". . . . . Getty/Townend

### Celebration of the Lord's Supper

### Prayer of Approach

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 14:22-25 (Optional)

### Holy Communion

-----God's Blessing-----

### Parting Hymn

"For the Cause". . . . .Getty/Townend

### Benediction

## **God's Gracious Provision 3/6/2022**

**Attendance:** 51

**Offering:** \$2092.00

*Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.*

He went deliberately to the high priests -- took the initiative -- with the intention of betraying his Lord. Mark highlights it with these words; "he was one of the twelve." He was of the inner circle, the ones upon whom Jesus leaned and depended, and yet he went to betray his Lord. He did it, Mark says, because of greed and covetousness.

### The Condescension of Christ

This story is saying to us. This is love's extravagance. When you and I partake of the table of the Lord together, Jesus is saying, "Look, it is I who break the flask of my own body, to pour out upon you all the precious ointment, so that you may understand that it is no longer law which governs your life; it is love."

The celebration of the risen Lord would not erase the memory of this unnamed woman whose action anticipated Jesus' death and expressed her profound love for the Master. The incorporation of the tradition of the anointing within the Gospel already marks a fulfilment of Jesus' promise.<sup>3</sup>

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>Lane, W. L. (1974). *The Gospel of Mark* (p. 492). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

<sup>2</sup>Garland, D. E. (1996). *Mark* (p. 517). Zondervan Publishing House

<sup>3</sup>Lane, W. L. (1974). *The Gospel of Mark* (pp. 494–495). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

It was a common custom at a meal to wash feet. If you were in a reclining position, that would be of great benefit because as you recline your feet necessarily appear in some way. And so, anointing feet, washing feet, as we see in John 13 where Jesus washed the disciples' feet. This was a normal thing, even putting perfume on feet was somewhat of a tradition or custom. And pouring perfume on people was a routine kind of function.

### An Extremely Valuable Act

- First, Jesus says, "*She has done a beautiful thing to me.*" The beauty of it lay in its very extravagance. This woman did not spare any of the ointment but broke the flask and poured the whole quantity out upon him.
- Second, he said that it was a timely thing she had done. It was something that could only be done now.
- Third, she did that which was feasible. That is, she did what she could. It was all that was open to her.
- Fourth, what she did was insightful. Our Lord says, "*She has anointed my body beforehand for burying.*" *It is interesting to go through the Gospel accounts and note the many times Jesus said to these disciples that he was going to die.*

Repeatedly he informed them that he was heading for death. Not one of them believed him -- except Mary of Bethany. She believed him and understood that he was here for that very purpose. This was what motivated her. Fifth, what she did was deserving of being remembered.

This story is not a tragedy; it is good news. Faithful and loving actions toward Jesus will not be forgotten; for that matter, neither will acts of foul play. Humans will scheme to deliver him up, but they do not know that God also delivers him up (14:21). They deliver him up to death; God will deliver him up from the grave.<sup>2</sup>

### The Plot Thickens

*Mark 14:10–11 (ESV)*

*Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. <sup>11</sup>And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.*

By introducing the action of Judas at this point Mark sharpens the contrast between the selfless devotion of the woman and the treachery with which the righteous sufferer is greeted by his friend (cf. Ps. 41:9). The betrayal consisted in the offer to inform the chief priests of an opportunity to arrest Jesus without a public disturbance (cf. Luke 22:6 "in the absence of the crowd").

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, March 15 6:30-8 P.M. Youth Group(Grades 6-12)**

at the home of the Deicherts.

**Wednesday, March 16 7:00 P.M. Men's Small Group**

at the home of Dave Frame

**Wednesday, March 16 7:00 P.M. Coventry-Warwick Ministerium Lenten Ser**

**vice** at Nantmeal UMC, 359 Nantmeal Rd., Glenmoore, PA 19343. Pastor Stacy Anderson will be speaking.

**Friday & Saturday, March 18-19 Men's Retreat at Camp Sankanac.**

Pick up more information and registration at the Welcome Table.

**Sunday, March 20 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer**

GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults—1300 High St

**Sunday, March 27 Ladies Game Night 6-8 P.M.**

at the home of Cindy Yorgey

**Saturday, April 2 6:00 P.M. Prayer Dinner**

at the home of Pastor Rick and Barb

**Friday, April 15 7:00 P.M. GCC Good Friday Communion Service**

**Sunday, April 17 10:30 A.M. GCC Easter Sunday Worship Service.**

Breakfast will be served from 9-10 before the service.

### Crossing Cultures International

David and Mindy Nelson



#### Pakistan

Please pray for the class that started at the end of February and for more new classes to form. Pray for protection, that God keeps the class safe in this increasingly unsafe world and protects them from harm and wickedness. The country's laws concerning Islam and Christianity make it difficult and dangerous to live out one's faith in public."

#### Bangladesh

Pray for the three new classes in Bangladesh with 30 students. May they learn and study effectively. Please pray for their spiritual and physical protection as they obediently follow Jesus.

#### DiscipleMakers: Tim and Holly Holden

Pray for the young man from Kutztown University who expressed interest in the Gospel and received a Bible. Pray that he sees the truth and believes it.

#### CRU: Steve and Kristin Scholl

- Pray for the men and women they have the privilege of talking to daily, as they journey towards missions.
- Pray for them to be able to move into their home soon.
- Pray for their son Jonathan as he is having a lot of trouble sleeping at night.

## Prayer/Praise. . . . . March 13, 2022

- Praise that Sara Care, who had a procedure as an outpatient on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, is doing much better. Pray for continued healing.
- Pray for Nic Collins, who has an opportunity to go to Costa Rica. Pray for guidance in God's will for Nic and for the families impacted by their ministry.
- Pray for Savannah Noakes, a friend of Donna Jenkins, who had a heart battery change procedure done this past Monday. Pray for healing for Savannah.
- Pray for Deb Breyer, friend of Dawn Fleetman, who is back in the hospital with pneumonia and a leg infection. She is on breathing treatments and antibiotics. Pray for God's healing for Deb.
- Pray for Agnes, a coworker of Dawn Fleetman, who had a heart attack at work and is in the hospital. Pray for her recovery.
- Pray for Nic Collins whose school announced they were shutting down this year. Pray for God's guidance for Nic.
- Pray for Tyler and Kaci Yensan, as they have orders for the end of this month to transfer to San Diego. Please pray for safety in moving and wisdom is finding new housing.
- Pray for Sam Mace's brother, Bob, and his family. The family is experiencing serious health issues, and difficult decisions need to be made. Pray the family would sense God is with them amid all that is occurring in the family.
- Pray for Eric Barret, whose wife, Lizette, passed away. Eric had back surgery and isn't back to work yet. Pray for God's strength, comfort, and peace for Eric, who is really struggling alone with the loss of Lizette.
- Please continue to pray for Donna Jenkins' nephew, Evan James, who has a very rare disease, CDA. Pray for God's healing for Evan and for his family and wisdom for his doctors.
- Pray for Austin, stepson of Lorraine Blanski's niece. Pray for strength, stamina, and a positive outlook with PT using his new prosthetics. Austin now has a prosthetic for his left leg and both arms. Pray for Austin as he continues to navigate his surroundings and his new life.
- Pray for Denny Bartchak. Denny has started physical therapy on his arm. Pray that he will soon be able to have the procedure to get the results of his bladder cancer treatments.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker. Pray for healing for Justine through her chemotherapy

## Message

### The Plot and the Party

*Mark 14:1–11 (ESV)*

The pure devotion of the anonymous woman throws into bold relief the hostility and treachery of the priests and their accomplice. It is further suggested that, at the time men were concerned with securing Jesus' death, Jesus' body was prepared for burial through an act which expressed faith and love.<sup>1</sup>

### Killing Jesus without an Uproar

*Mark 14:1–2 (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 him by stealth and kill him, <sup>2</sup>for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people."*

The leaders, while they play their little petty games, are merely pawns in the purposes of God. They're culpable for their hatred and their rejection and will be held responsible for the murder of the Son of God. But they do not determine what happens or when it happens. Our Lord will die by the predetermined foreknowledge and purpose of God. He Himself is directing everything by His providence, even though it is invisible to everybody except the Lord Himself.

### The Party

*Mark 14:3–9 (ESV)*

*And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. <sup>4</sup>There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? <sup>5</sup>For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her. <sup>6</sup>But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. <sup>9</sup>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."*