

## **A Love Hate Relationship**

(Mark 14:1-16)

(preached 11/29/15; Sunday AM)

### **Introduction**

Take your Bibles and turn with me to Mark 14:1.

Today, we leave behind the end times and begin our look at the end of Jesus' life.

Chapter 14 and chapter 15 will give us the events that lead up to the crucifixion and then the burial of the Lord Jesus Christ...

This morning, we are going to look at the first 16 verses of the Mark 14...

And we are going to meet some of the folks who are going to play a role in the final days of Jesus' life....

In fact, we are going to meet 4 characters this morning who will have their roles in the death of the Lord Jesus Christ...

Let's begin by reading these first 16 verses of chapter 14, as we move our minds to the final hours of our Lord's life...

*14 Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread were two days away; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize Him by stealth and kill Him; 2 for they were saying, "Not during the festival, otherwise there might be a riot of the people."*

*3 While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure [a]nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head. 4 But some were indignantly remarking to one another, "Why has this perfume been wasted? 5 For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred [b]denarii, and the money given to the poor." And they were scolding her. 6 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me. 7 For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them; but you do not always have Me. 8 She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial. 9 Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."*

*10 Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went off to the chief priests in order to [c]betray Him to them. 11 They were glad when they heard this, and promised to give him money. And he began seeking how to betray Him at an opportune time. 12 On the first day of Unleavened Bread,*

*when [d]the Passover lamb was being sacrificed, His disciples \*said to Him, “Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?”*  
*13 And He \*sent two of His disciples and \*said to them, “Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; 14 and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’”*  
*15 And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; prepare for us there.”*  
*16 The disciples went out and came to the city, and found it just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover.*

Let us pray.

As we begin to think about the death of Jesus, we need to keep one thing in focus...

All of the events that we will look at over the next few weeks were the plan of God.

Let me read what Acts 2:22-23 says about the events surrounding the death of Jesus Christ..

Peter is preaching one of the greatest sermons ever to the Jews in Jerusalem begging them to believe in Jesus as their Messiah...

And here is what he says about Jesus...

***22 “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— 23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.***

The simple truth about the betrayal, the arrest, the phony trial, and the eventual crucifixion of Jesus is that God had determined in eternity past how it all would happen.

Now, evil religious leaders with evil intentions carried out the plan even though they had no idea what they were doing..

An evil man with evil intentions betrayed Jesus and led the soldiers to arrest him.

And evil government with evil intentions sentenced him to death even though He was innocent...

But the death of Jesus was all of God's doing from the beginning of time..

God had determined that Jesus would be sacrificed in the place of sinners before the heavens and earth were even created.

And let me remind you as we begin to look at the events leading up to the crucifixion, God determined to do all of this out His great love for us.

The Bible says that while we were sinners, Christ died for us...

The plan was so simple yet so brilliant...

A sinless Jesus Christ would die in the place of guilty sinners...

His innocent blood would be poured out to satisfy God's wrath against sin.

The Bible says that by his wounds, we are healed.

And the entire plan to save guilty sinners is all meant to glorify God.

To demonstrate His wisdom in providing a solution to the world's greatest problem of sin...

And to demonstrate His compassion and mercy toward people who were born to sin against Him..

And to demonstrate His justice by not letting sin go unpunished, but rather by sending that wrath and punishment to His own Son..

The cross is where God's wisdom, God's love, and God's justice all meet...

The cross is glorious to us who call ourselves Christians but it is foolishness to the world...

The unbelieving world looks at the cross and can make no sense of it...

How can a death 2000 years ago take away your sin today?

How can the death of one man satisfy the wrath of God against millions of people?

How can a person's trust in a event 2000 years ago change their life today?

Yet, all of that is true in the cross where Jesus Christ died, and for the next several weeks, we get to follow Jesus to that cross...

And we get to see the wisdom, mercy, and justice of God all come together as God directs all the events of the crucifixion to take place...

Exactly HOW He designed and exactly WHEN He designed it to happen.

So, let's begin this journey to the cross by going back and looking a little closer at the first 16 verses of Mark 14...

In this section, we are going to meet some of the people who will have a part in the plan of God to send Jesus to the cross...

Now, what is interesting to me as we take the turn to the cross in chapter 14 is this...

These 16 verses have 4 very clear sections that are centered around two groups of people and two individuals...

In verses 1-2, we will look at a group of people who are ready to destroy Jesus...

Then in verses 3-9, we will see a woman who is full of devotion to Jesus.

In verses 10-11, we will see a man ready to deceive Jesus...

And then we will close out this section of Mark in verses 12-16 with a group of people fulfilling their duty to Jesus Christ.

It is amazing to me that here we are at the end of Jesus' ministry...

3.5 years of healing people, 3.5 years of miracles,  
3.5 years of preaching truth, 3.5 years of showing  
God's love to the world...

And with just days left in his life, most of the world  
still wants him dead...

The religious leaders are ready to murder him, one  
of his closest associates followers, a man who had  
followed him for all of his ministry is ready to  
betray him for 30 pieces of silver...

And if you are wondering about the crowds who  
had followed him, don't get your hopes up...

In a few verses, we will see these crowds again as  
they chant in unison, "Crucify him. Crucify Him."

What we see today is that Jesus has just a few  
people after 3.5 years who truly love him....

One is going to show incredible love for him, and  
the others are simply going to show complete  
obedience to him..

And here in these 16 verses before us today is the  
truth that the Bible describes from beginning to end.

You either love God or you hate Him..

There is no middle road in how you view God.

And there is no middle road in how you love Christ..

You either love Christ or you hate Him.

You either show devotion and obedience to Him or you are ready to destroy Him..

There is no third option...

And we are going to see that this morning...

Let's begin back in verses 1-2 of chapter 14 with...

## **I. A Group Ready to Destroy Jesus (1-2)**

As we get to chapter 14, we find ourselves late Wednesday night...

Jesus will be crucified Friday afternoon, and so we are less than 48 hours away from his death...

And since God has determined for Jesus to die at the time that lambs would be sacrificed for the Passover, the wheels that plan into motion begin to turn here..

The first group who plays a part in the crucifixion are the religious leaders of Israel.

We see the chief priests and scribes here in verse 2..

Now if you remember, Wednesday has been a very full day for Jesus...

He went to the Jewish temple in Jerusalem that morning...

And he began the morning by preaching the truth there until he was confronted time and time again by the religious leaders of Israel on that day..

The chiefs priests and the scribes were the 1st to confront Jesus in the temple that day as they questioned His authority...

They asked him, “What or who gives you the right to be here teaching against and confronting our religious system?”

And after that confrontation, Wednesday became a series of more confrontations..

The Pharisees and the Herodians came and tried to trap him with a question on taxes...

Then the Saducees came and tried to trip him up with a question about the resurrection..

That was followed up with a 5th confrontation from the scribes on the most important commandment...

And each time, Jesus answered his accusers in the brilliant way possible, and each time the religious leaders walked away defeated.

As the day drew to a close, Jesus walked out of the temple and ended up on the Mount of Olives teaching his disciples about the end times..

However, while Jesus was teaching, his enemies were still scheming about what to do about him.

And we see their planning right here in verse 2...

It is Wednesday as we have said before and we know that because we read in verse 1 that the Passover was two days away...

And this group of Jewish religious leaders had had enough of Jesus.

And they were ready to grab him secretly and put him to death.

But they were cowards.

They didn't want the crowds to see this because they were afraid that it would throw the crowds into a riot...

Little did they know, but the crowds were all that supportive of Jesus.

Sure, they gathered to hear him, but very few thought enough to give up their life to follow Him.

Sounds like so many churches today.

So many come because they want to hear the truth, but very few move from being hearers to doers...

And that was certainly true of the crowd in Jerusalem.

However, the fear of the crowd was enough to keep the religious leaders from acting right away...

And that is so characteristic of people in this world who hate Jesus...

They are more afraid of man than they are of God.

Now, they will get their wish to destroy Jesus granted, but it will not happen when they want it happen...

Because God is going to hand Jesus over to them and force them to execute Him in front of all the crowds in Jerusalem.

And guess what?

Nobody will riot; in fact, they will cheer for his death..

Such is the nature of the hatred of Jesus..

And make no mistake...

If you don't love and adore the Lord Jesus Christ with your entire life, you are no different than the group of people described in verses 1-2 of Mark 14.

But let's move from them to a woman in verses 3-9...

## **II. A Woman Filled with Devotion to Jesus (3-9)**

In verse 9, we are taken back to the Saturday before in a little town called Bethany...

If you remember, we talked about Bethany in Mark 11...

It was a little town on the other side of the Mount of Olives...

Here's a few slides to show you the area...

You would leave the temple...Walk down into the Kidron Valley...and then walk up the Mount of Olives...and then on the back side of the Mount of Olives...were a couple little towns...

Bethany and Bethpage...

Bethany was the town where had stayed each night this week...

He had arrived in Bethany on the Saturday before and he had made that his headquarters as the disciples would sleep there....

And then go into Jerusalem each day..

While in Bethany, he stayed with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus..

These were 3 siblings, and Lazarus was the one who Jesus had raised from the dead the week before..

And we are taken back to that Saturday in verses 3-9...

And the reason that this scene is put here is to show that Judas, who will be talked about in verses 10-11, was a man who was driven by money...

But before we get to the deception of Judas, let's take just a moment to look at the devotion of Mary..

Now the scene of this incredible show of love for Jesus didn't happen at Mary, Martha, and Lazarus' home...

It actually happened at another home in Bethany, which according to verse 3 was the home of Simon the Leper..

We don't know anything about Simon other than what we see here, but it is safe to assume that he was probably a leper who had been healed by Jesus and was now a follower...

And so we know from John 12 that Jesus came to his Simon's house on this Saturday to enjoy a meal..

And since the normal position to enjoy a meal in that culture was to lay down....

We see an example of incredible devotion to Jesus while he was lying down to enjoy this meal at Simon's home...

Though Mark doesn't mention the name of this woman, we know from John 12 that it was Mary.

And the act of kindness is real simple...

She simply took a jar of perfume that cost 300 denarii, which is roughly equal to a year's salary...

And she poured the entire bottle on Jesus...

Well, long story short, it outraged Judas...

And his outrage only spread like a disease to the other disciples...

The reason that Judas was outraged is because a year's salary is a large amount of money....

And HE was obsessed with money..

And as HE watched that perfume pouring over the Lord Jesus Christ in an incredible act of love and devotion to Him...

All he could see were dollar signs running down  
Jesus' head...

Now he like so many who love money tried to hide  
behind a noble excuse..

We could have sold that perfume and given the  
proceeds from the sale of it to the poor...

Now you need to realize, he had no intentions of  
actually doing that...

It was just a simply way to complain about it in a  
noble way...

But Jesus nips that complaint in the bud in verse  
6...

“Stop scolding her over what she has done.”

This was simply an act of exceptional love for  
Someone who deserves all of our worship and all of  
our love and all of our money..

This was a woman who was worshipping Jesus in  
the best way that she could..

This was a woman who was devoted to Christ, and  
how do you know?

It showed in how she spent used her money...

A year's wages were a drop in the bucket for what Jesus had done for her...

How many of you would pay a year's salary for forgiveness of sins and eternal life with our Lord in heaven?

What price can you put on being in a right relationship with the God of the universe?

For Mary, she loved Jesus completely, and if she had owned a bottle of perfume worth 10 years wages, she would used that...

It is great to care for the needy and the poor, but you will never ever do enough for them....

The poor you will always have in a fallen world..

And as the Lord allows, we should care for them, but given the chance that Mary was given to honor the Lord with her money, it was an easy decision.

Though Mary probably had no idea, her act of love and devotion for Jesus had also prepared his body for the burial that was coming..

In a culture that did not practice embalming, death brought odor and the strong scent of such an incredible amount of perfume would probably have lasted until Jesus was laid in the tomb...

Even though Mary didn't know what that Friday would bring, Jesus did...

And her act of love served the practical purpose of preparing his body for the burial that awaited..

Let me say this about Mary's act...

True love of Jesus Christ knows no limits on what it will do for Christ,...

Ignores what others say about acts of love for Christ...

And cares not how much money it spends on Christ...

If you want to know if your truly love Christ, take a look at what you do for Him...

And then take a look at your money is spent in honor of Him..

Jesus said in Matthew 6...

***19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***

Mary’s treasure was spent on where her heart was...

And it was with Jesus in every way possible...

Let’s move from this Woman Filled with Devotion to Jesus to...

### **III. A Man Looking to Deceive Jesus (10-11)**

As we move to verses 10-11, we take the greed of Judas with us from verses 4-5...

The same man who wanted the money from the perfume is the same man who wanted money for betraying Jesus...

In verse 10, we are left to guess when this meeting occurred between Judas and the chief priests occurred.

It was sometime between that Saturday and this Wednesday night...

I tend to think it was right after the episode at Simon's house...

Judas was the treasurer for the group of the disciples, which should come as no surprise because he had a love of money..

He has probably been stealing from their money for a while now, but this episode at Simon's house was most likely the straw that broke the camel's back in his mind...

He couldn't stomach all the money that could have been his if Mary had not wasted it on the Lord...

And that was clear clue of Judas' character...

While Mary was devoted to Jesus, Judas was devoted to the money she wasted...

While Mary showed her love of Jesus is that perfume, Judas showed his love of money in that perfume..

And when Jesus corrected his view of what Mary had done in verses 6-9, Judas had enough..

It was time for Jesus to be destroyed.

And so Judas went to the chief priests to cut a deal...

He would let them know the best time to seize Jesus so that they could kill him quietly..

There is more to say about Judas, and we will deal with him later in Mark, but let me just say this about him in general....

Haters of Jesus Christ have but one mission in their life...

To silence Him at all costs...

Judas had listened to his teaching for 3 years on a lot of subjects, but when his teaching stepped on Judas' toes, there was but one option...

Silence him.

Betray Him.

Kill Him.

Such is the practice of people who want nothing to do with Jesus.

They cut off every avenue hearing from Jesus.

Their Bibles collect dust not because they don't have time, but because they don't want to be confronted by the words of Jesus in Scripture.

Their church going is sporadic or not at all not because they are so busy but because they don't want to be confronted with the words of Jesus preached.

And even when they do darken the door of the church, they close their ears and eyes not because they are sleepy to tired but because Jesus steps not on their toes but on their entire lifestyle.

There are but two people in this world...

Those who can't get enough of the words of Jesus ,  
and those who have had enough of the word of  
Jesus..

You either want to sit and listen to Jesus at every  
chance or you want to silence him at every  
chance...

Which is true of your life?

Judas was ready to silence Jesus.

I pray that is not true of you this morning..

There is one final set of verses that we need to look  
at this morning...

We have seen a group who hates Jesus, a woman  
who loves Jesus, and man ready to betray Jesus, but  
lets end with....

#### **IV. A Group Performing their Duty to Jesus (12-16)**

In verses 12-16, we see the disciples as examples of those who truly love the Lord...

And in this case, we don't see their love of Jesus in what they did...

We see their love of Jesus in how they obeyed the Lord..

Mary may have given all she had to show she truly loved Jesus...

The disciples simply showed their love of Jesus by doing what He had asked them to do...

In verse 12, the day turns to Thursday and without explaining everything of the timing of the Passover...

Let me just say this...

Jesus is going to die on Friday as the true Passover lamb on the cross..

And He is going to die while the Passover lambs are being sacrificed in the temple...

God had determined that from long ago so that Jesus' death would be the last and final sacrifice of a Passover Lamb...

He would be the true Passover lamb, and there would be no need for any other lamb to die once Jesus had died on the cross...

On a Friday afternoon while all the other lambs are being sacrificed in the temple by the Jews who had rejected Jesus as their Messiah...

However, that created a problem in some ways...

Jesus also needed to celebrate the Passover meal with his disciples...

HE needed to transform the Passover meal in the Lord's Supper...

The Passover meal was part of the Old Covenant of the Old Testament...

Jesus was going to die as the true Passover Lamb and establish the New Covenant sealed in His blood...

However, for that to happen, Jesus needed to celebrate the Passover a day earlier on Thursday night..

He couldn't wait until Friday night; he would be dead and buried by then..

Now, to make this possible for Jesus to celebrate the Passover on Thursday and then die as the Passover lamb on Friday, God had established some traditions in Israel.

And it was this simple, -Galilean Jews had traditionally celebrated Passover on Thursday night...

Jews in the south traditionally celebrated Passover on Friday night..

Since you had to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem, having to kill all the lambs on Friday morning and having to have rooms available for everyone to celebrate on Friday night was a problem..

Therefore, Galilean Jews killed their lambs on during the afternoon on Thursday and ate the Passover meal on Thursday night...

While Judean Jews killed their lamb during the afternoon on Friday and ate the Passover meal on Friday night.

This entire tradition and set up of the Passover created the perfect conditions for Jesus to celebrate the Passover on Thursday with his Galilean disciples.

And then die as the perfect Passover Lamb on Friday afternoon on a cross outside of Jerusalem.

All of that to say that verse 12 tells us it is Thursday, and these Galilean disciples of Jesus are ready to make preparations for their Passover meal that night...

And Jesus simply tells them to go into Jerusalem and find a man carrying a pitcher of water..

That would be unusual since ladies usually did the water carrying....

And when they saw that man, they were to ask him for a place to have the Passover...

He would point them an Upper Room and welcome them to have the Passover there..

And then in verse 16, we see the application for all of us..

Jesus told them to go...

And look what we see in verse 16...

“The disciples went out and came to the city....And then prepared the Passover.”

Can I just make a clear application from this to all of us?

Those who truly love Jesus Christ obey him.

They didn't question the crazy request of Jesus.

They didn't think it over.

Jesus said it.

They did it.

It was really that simple...

And when it comes to those who truly love Christ, there are two people in the world...

Those who simply obey Jesus and those who look for reasons not to obey Him...

## **Conclusion**

The choice to love and obey God or to hate and disobey him God is from Genesis to Revelation.

As we have seen in Mark 14:1-16, everyone in the world is driven by their love of Jesus Christ or by their hatred of him..

The Bible never offers a third choice.

And everyone in here this morning is driven by one of those choices as well as you go through life...

You will make decisions in your life based upon your love of God or your hatred of Him...

There is not another option...

Here is a picture of a man named Luciano Pavarotti.

He died in 2007 as possibly the world's best known opera singer.

I am not a fan of opera, but I have heard his name before..

He was asked one day about how he became so good at his craft...

Here was his answer...

“I was exposed to song and taught about music from an early age...And I loved to sing. But as I entered college, I decided to study to become a teacher...

So, I took classes to become just that, - a good teacher...After I graduated, I asked my dad. Father, should I teach or sing? My father replied this way, and I never forget it...

“Luciano, 'if you try to sit on two chairs, you will fall between them. For life, you must choose one chair.'

“So, I chose one chair. It took seven years of study and frustration before I made my first professional appearance. It took another seven to reach the Metropolitan Opera. And now I think whether it's laying bricks, writing a book--whatever we choose--we should give ourselves to it. The key is to choose one chair.”

Now, PAVOROTTI was talking about singing.

This morning, however, we are talking about your life, and more importantly, your life to come after death...

You cannot a love/hate relationship with Jesus Christ...

If you try that, you will fall between the chairs into hell..

Today is the day to repent of your sin and believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ...

And then to follow Him and love Him the rest of your life..3