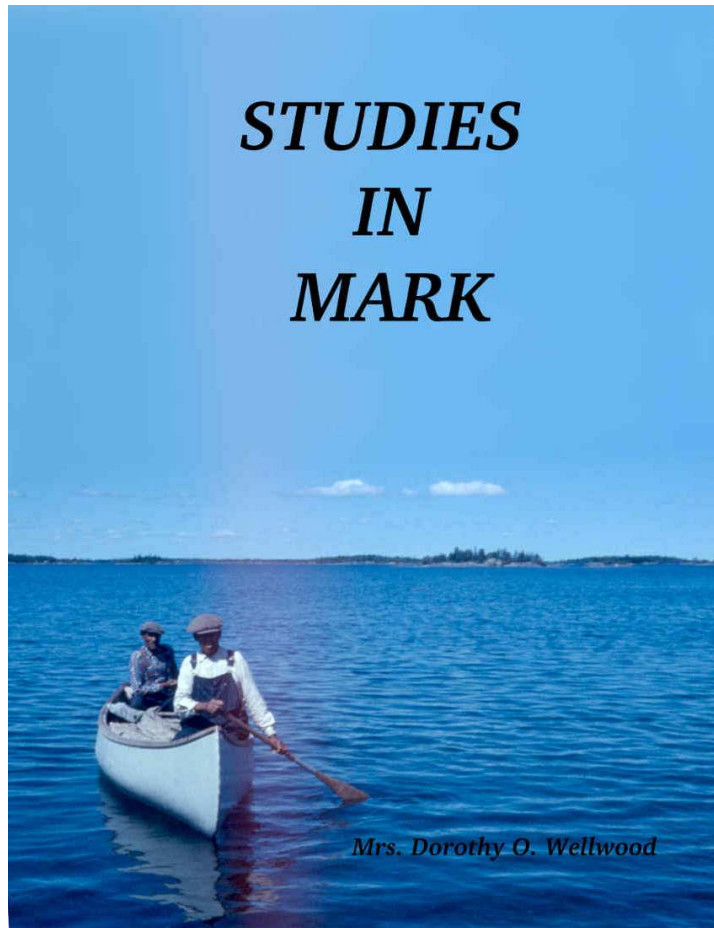


***STUDIES
IN
MARK***



LESSON 54

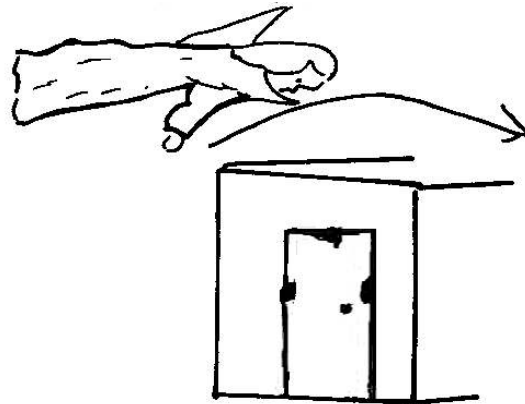
MARK 14:1-9

THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER

Mark 14:1 speaks of the feast of the Passover. To learn the meaning of this feast, we must go back to Exodus, chapter 12. The children of Israel had been in Egypt over 400 years. The kings of Egypt made the people of God work very hard. They beat them with whips to make them work harder. God heard the cries of the children of Israel. God told Moses to lead His people out of the land of the cruel king of Egypt. But the king said he would not let them go.

God sent terrible trouble on Egypt and her king because the king would not let God's people go. Nine times God let His judgment fall on Egypt but the king had a very hard heart. At last God said that death would come to all homes in Egypt. The first-born in every family must die. To protect His people, the children of Israel, God told them what to do. This is what they must do if they wanted death to pass over without taking the first-born.

1. Each family must find a perfect lamb.
2. They must kill the lamb and catch its blood.
3. They must take branches of a bush called hyssop, and paint the lamb's blood on both side posts and over the door of their house.
4. The night God told them to do this, every one in the family must stay inside. They must eat some bitter plants too.
5. That night God would pass through the streets of Egypt with the angel of death.



God would look for the blood around the doors. If there was no blood, the first-born must die. But God said,

“When I see the blood, I will **pass over you.**” (Exodus 12:13)

This is where the word “passover” comes from. Every year, at this same time, the Jews kept the feast of the Passover. They did not want to forget the time the angel of death passed over their houses. The Jews still keep the feast of the Passover in our day.

The Lord Jesus is the lamb of God. (John 1:29,36) He shed His blood to save us from our sins. When we ask the Lord Jesus to come into our hearts, God sees us under Jesus’ blood. God said,

“When I see the blood, I will pass over you.”

This means that for us there will be no everlasting death (hell). We keep communion service to remember the Lord’s death. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

READ MARK 14:1,2

1. It was only 2 days before the great feast day. Which feast were the Jews going to keep? (verse 1) The feast of the _____ and of _____

(Unleavened bread was flat bread made with no yeast to make it rise.)

2. This was the time of year when thousands and thousands of people came from near and far. Jerusalem was full of people. They wanted to remember the time long ago back in Egypt when God said,

“When I see the BLOOD, I will PASS OVER you.”

This was to the Jews a holy day. They should have been thinking happy thoughts with thankful hearts. What were the scribes and chief priests thinking about Jesus? (verse 1)

What did these wicked men have in their hearts? _____ and _____ .

3. The scribes and chief priests were supposed to kill a lamb like their fathers had done back in Egypt the night God set them free. Instead they were planning to kill Jesus. They did not know that Jesus was God's Lamb, sent to shed His blood for the sins of the whole world. READ John 1:29. Who did John the Baptist say Jesus was? He said,
 "Behold the _____ which taketh away
 _____."
 ." (John 1:29)

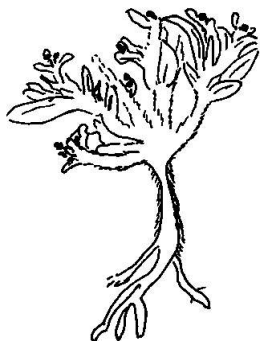
4. Did the chief priest and scribes plan to kill Jesus on the feast day? (verse 2)
 _____ . Why? What were they afraid of (verse 2) _____ .
 One writer says there would be 250,000 Jews in Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. Many of these Jews would be angry if the scribes and chief priests killed Jesus. There might be a riot, and perhaps they would get killed themselves.

READ MARK 14:3-9

A BEAUTIFUL STORY

A woman had some very costly perfume. What was the very best use she could make of her rich perfume?

1. Where did this story happen? (verse 3) _____ .
2. In whose house was Jesus? (verse 3) _____ .
3. Who came into the house? (verse 3) _____ (Look in John 12:3 for her name.)



4. What did she have in her hand? (verse 3) _____ .

(Alabaster box - only the richest perfume was sealed in an alabaster box.)

(Spikenard is a plant that grows in India. From its roots was made a very sweet smelling perfume.

Even the stems and fruit were used for this perfume. It



was hard to buy it because it cost so much money. The perfume was usually sealed in a box or narrow-necked bottle. The only way to get the perfume out, was to break the box or bottle. They must use all the sweet perfume at once. The bottle was broken.)

5. What did Mary do with the perfume after she broke the bottle? (verse 3)
6. She did something else with her perfume (John 12:3)
7. How can we tell that the perfume was very sweet? (John 12:3) “the house was
of .”

Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 11:24 of the words of Jesus at the last supper,
“ . . . this is my body, which is broken for you.”

Jesus spoke about His death on the cross. When Mary’s bottle of sweet perfume was broken, the whole house was filled with the sweet smell. When Jesus’ body was broken on the cross for us, the whole world was filled with the sweetness of what He had done to save us from our sin. Do we love Him who loved us so much?

8. Mary had poured sweet perfume on Jesus’ feet and wiped His feet with her long hair. Did everybody in the house think Mary had done a good thing? (Mark 14:4)

*(Indignation means **anger**.)*

9. Which disciple did not like what Mary did for Jesus? (John 12:4)
Did others complain? (Mark 14:4,5)

10. What bad things was this disciple going to do to Jesus? (John 12:4)

(Betray means to tell his enemies how they can capture him.)

11. Why did this disciple complain about Mary? (John 12:6)

12. How much money did the perfume cost? (verse 5) .
(In our money this would be about \$40.00. In those days that would be a lot of money.)
13. Before the Passover Feast, people used to give money to the poor people. Did Judas really care about the poor? (John 12:6) .

What kind of a man was Judas? John 12:6 says he was a . He was the treasurer for the disciples and kept the money bag. He wanted the ointment sold and the money put in the money-bag so he could steal it.

14. How did Jesus answer Judas and the others? (Mark 14:6)
 “ her . . . She has (done) .”
15. Who did Jesus say they would always have with them? (verse 7) .
 Who did Jesus say they would NOT always have with them? (verse 7) .
16. Why did Jesus say Mary had put perfume on Him? (verse 8)
 “. . . to anoint to the .”

Jesus had told them He was going to die. The others did not seem to believe Him, but Mary believed His word. Jesus was pleased. Jesus was so pleased with what Mary did to show her love for Him and her faith in Him that Jesus rewarded her. READ Mark 14:9. Fill in the blanks with what Jesus said:

“Where this shall be throughout the , this also shall be for a of her.”

Jesus will never, never forgets a single act of love and faith toward Him. It was Mary’s love for Jesus that made her give Him the very best gift she had. Her faith made her show that she believed what He had told them about His death.

The rich young ruler kept his riches for himself. Mary did not keep her treasure.

She gave it all to Jesus. She believed that Jesus was going to pour out all His life for her.

This beautiful story in the middle of hatred and murder in the hearts of Jesus' enemies makes us glad that someone loved Him that much. It made Him happy too.

It makes Jesus happy today when we give our best to Him. Let us remember the widow's mite too. Jesus always notices how much we give Him.

The Indian chief gave Jesus a very precious gift too. He gave himself to Jesus. This is the very best gift any of us can give to Jesus. Let us give ourselves, body, soul and spirit to Jesus today.

STUDIES IN MARK by Dorothy O. Wellwood.

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