

Sunday, January 29, 2017
Pastor Don Denyes

Introduction to Mark 14:1-11

There is so much that goes on in the world that it can be easy to get distracted. We can devote our time to many good things. In our workplaces, we can be devoted to creating the best products or providing the best services we can. In our families, we can devote ourselves to developing relationships with our parents or siblings or children. In our recreation, we can devote ourselves to endless hours of entertainment. Yet we still must answer the question, “what is the value of the things to which we choose to devote ourselves?”

Even in the Christian life, there are so many things to get caught up in. Many Christians are passionate about social justice and caring for the poor. Many are passionate about the issue of abortion and provide services to pregnant women. Many care about theological debates about creation and evolution, grace and free will, and the end times. Yet time and time again, the Bible calls us chiefly to devotion to Christ. He, of course, is most valuable of all. Yet we too often get distracted by more peripheral things. This passage in Mark 14 calls us to renew our devotion to Him above all else!

Context

Jesus has just finished teaching the disciples about things pertaining to His return. This is all happening during the week between Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem in the Triumphal Entry and His impending death on the cross. By this time, the Jewish leaders have determined among themselves that this will be the time they will finally kill Jesus (14:1-2). They have also found an accomplice in Judas, one of Jesus’ disciples (14:10-11). This sets the stage for Jesus’ final days. But before Jesus allows Himself to be handed over, He must once again teach the disciples what it means to be truly devoted to Him...

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Mark 14:1-11

“Great Love for Christ”

- Terrible Act of Treachery (1-2, 10-11)
 - Conspiracy
 - Caution

- Incredible Act of Devotion (3-9)
 - Setting
 - People

- Devotion
 - Worshipful
 - Beautiful
 - Insightful
 - Impactful

Discuss

- 1) When you hear the word “devotion,” what comes to mind? What does it mean to be “devoted” to something or someone?
- 2) What are some things that distract us from “simple and pure devotion to Christ”? (2 Cor. 11:3)
- 3) Read Romans 12:1-2. How does that passage describe devotion to Christ? What is the motivation?
- 4) Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17. How can our devotion to Christ be an “aroma” to others? How does God use our devotion to Christ to speak into the lives of others?
- 5) How can we better encourage one another to be devoted to Christ and to “keep the main things the main things”?