

The Passion Story according to Mark

Mark 14: 1 - 9. It was two days before Passover. Does anyone know what Passover is? (If not, it is the day Jewish people – to this day – celebrate getting out of Egypt where they were slaves.)

Jesus is at a dinner party and something happens that many people thought was very strange. While Jesus was eating dinner, a woman came into the room carrying a beautiful jar with very expensive perfume. She proceeded to pour the perfume all over Jesus' head. "Hey," the people said, "That perfume jar could have been sold and the money given to help poor people and she just wasted it!" No, Jesus assured them, it was not wasted. In verse 8 Jesus says: "She has anointed my body beforehand, for burial." Why do you think he said that? (He knows he is to die.) Anyone want to illustrate the woman gently pouring perfumed oil on Jesus' head?

Mark 14:12-16. Passover is coming. The disciples wondered where they would go to celebrate the feast. To help them find the right place, Jesus sent two of his disciples to find the place. This is how they would know they were in the right place: they would find a man carrying a jar of water.

Does anyone know why that one man would be easy to spot? (Carrying water was considered women's work, since few men would do that work, so this guy would be easy to find.)

Mark 14:17-21. They are all at supper eating a very excellent meal. They must have been startled to hear Jesus say that one of the people sitting at that very table was going to betray him. They turned to each other and said: "Could I be the one? Whoa, I sure hope not!" But the one who would betray Jesus was sitting right there at the table.

Mark 14:22-26. Jesus needed to leave his friends with something that would be with them all their lives and still be here for us today. So, Jesus took a small loaf of bread, broke off a piece for each person and said, "Take; this is my body." Then he took the glass of wine and said: "This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many." And each person took a sip of the wine.

Mark 14:32-42. Jesus and his friends go to a garden with the name Gethsemane. Jesus needs to pray to God and he wants his friends to pray with him. Here Jesus

accepts that he is going to have to die. But his exhausted friends cannot keep awake. They keep falling asleep at their prayers.

Mark 14:43-50. Judas shows up. Judas is the one who will betray Jesus. Judas has brought soldiers to have Jesus arrested. Judas comes up to Jesus and kisses him on the cheek. That was the sign he had given the soldiers so they would know whom to arrest. So they arrested Jesus.

Mark 14:53-65. The chief priests need to be sure that what Jesus is saying is really wrong so they can kill him. They ask him many questions and finally convince themselves that what Jesus is saying is blasphemy. Blasphemy means telling lies about God.

Mark 14: 66-72. Peter had been so sure he would stick with Jesus no matter what. Jesus had told Peter that Peter would snap -- that he would deny Jesus three times before the cock crowed. Sure enough, before Peter realized what was happening, in his terror, three separate times Peter said he did not know Jesus. Then the cock crowed. Peter was heartbroken.

Mark 15: 1-15. The chief priests decide to hand Jesus over to Pilate. Pilate doesn't really want to kill Jesus, so he gets an idea. It was the custom to release one criminal at Passover. So Pilate asked the crowd: Shall I release this Jesus, or shall I release Barabbas? The crowd wanted Barabbas to be released! So that meant that Jesus would be handed over to be crucified.

Mark 15: 16-32. Jesus is led away to be crucified. A man named Simon came along and carried the cross for Jesus for a while. At nine o'clock in the morning they nailed Jesus to the cross.

Mark 15: 33-39. At noon, as Jesus hung on the cross the skies began to get very dark. By three in the afternoon, Jesus had died. The soldiers who had been standing guard said: "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Mark 15: 42-47. A man named Joseph of Arimathea asked for the body of Jesus so he could bury him in a tomb. Joseph took a linen cloth to cover the body of Jesus and then carried him to the tomb. He gently laid Jesus' body in the tomb and covered the opening with a huge rock.