

Mark Series: *Let the Gospel Tell the Gospel*

**JESUS, THE SOVEREIGN LAMB
CAN SHEPHERD YOU TO SAFETY IN KINGDOM SERVICE.**

24 And He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. *Mark 14:24*

Covenant Presbyterian Church

MARK 14:12-26

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Mark 14:12-16 Jesus is in charge of his life and his death: *you can trust him.*

Mark is telling us that Jesus is in charge and that he deliberately sets the scene of Passover for his death. For Passover defines an essential part of Jesus’ role!

- 14:12 Passover *lamb* was being sacrificed
For you to eat the Passover
14:14 in which I may eat the Passover with my disciples
14:16 and they prepared the Passover

Note the parallel to those getting the donkey and colt (11:1-2; cf., John 1:48) and to 1 Sam 9:19-2 Sam 10:7. God’s prophets and priests are shown what they need. Jesus is the greatest of the prophets and priests.

Jesus is in charge—you can trust him because he’s still in charge!

Mark has prepared us for this day with Jesus providing bread for the crowds in the wilderness (Mark 6 & 8). He provides the new 12 leaders, the new Israel, a new exodus through his substitutionary death. Some have seen it quite differently: Albert Schweitzer in his *The Quest for the Historical Jesus*:

There is silence all around. The Baptist appears, and cries: “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Soon after that comes Jesus, and in the knowledge that He is the coming Son of Man lays hold of the wheel of the world to set it moving on that last revolution which is to bring all ordinary history to a close. It refuses to turn, and He throws Himself upon it. Then it does turn; *and crushes Him*. Instead of bringing in the eschatological conditions, He has destroyed them. The wheel rolls onward, and the mangled body of the one immeasurably great Man, who was strong enough to think of Himself as the spiritual ruler of mankind and to bend history to His purpose, is hanging upon it still.¹

Mark 14:16 The disciples went out and came to the city, and found *it* just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

But Jesus is in charge down to the last details. And they find things exactly as he had told them.

Mark 14:17-21 Jesus in sovereign grace warns his betrayers: *search your heart (“Surely not I?”) and consider well your choices.*

Mark 14:17 *He came with the twelve*

Mark 3:14 And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He *could* send them out to preach, Jesus is still preparing his disciples for the task of gathering saints and making disciples. There’s more to learn...

Half of the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important. They don’t mean to do harm. But the harm does not interest them. T.S. Eliot, from his play, *The Cocktail Party*

Jesus speaks the challenge and warning to each of his disciples, not just to Judas.

How am I in danger of betraying my Lord? in danger of betraying my neighbor? (You can’t separate the two.) Judas did not betray just Jesus, though him most of all. He betrayed all the other disciples in abandoning and hindering the kingdom work for which they were giving their lives.

Mark 14:19 Are we grieved at Jesus’ question? And at the necessity of his death?

¹ 1. Albert Schweitzer, *The Quest for the Historical Jesus* (New York: Macmillan, 1959), pp. 370, 371.

Note how the necessity of Jesus' death and Judas' betray point to our radical depravity of heart.

Do you know you need a substitute to spare you from God's right and appropriate judgment?

Do you foolishly think it's okay to spend your life building your own little kingdom for your glory?

Mark 14:21 Note well how this text teaches both God's sovereignty and our human responsibility.

The Son of Man must be handed over and killed as prophesied and there will be a betrayer as prophesied.

Psalm 41:9 Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.

Note how Jesus is graciously warning Judas even now?

Do we note that this was betrayal by one close to him, by family! Jesus was forming a new family.

We shouldn't do church like organization and make stars out of pastors as we do politicians. We are family with only one Father.

⁸ "But do not be called **Rabbi**; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. ⁹ "Do not call *anyone* on earth your **father**; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. ¹⁰ "Do not be called **leaders**; for One is your Leader, *that is*, Christ.

¹¹ "But the greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted. Mat 23:8-12

Like Judas the big missteps we make are the fruit of hundreds of smaller choices.

Jesus is about to tell us why the Jewish people trusted rightly in the blood of little lambs to protect them from God's judgment. The true Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world is now here. Will you trust his blood to protect and save you?

Mark 14:22-26 Jesus, first-born Paschal Lamb and Priest, will shepherd you to safety in kingdom service: feast on him and live!

During the Passover meal and telling, the third cup represented thanks for God's redemptive power, saving them through judgment. Here the teller would explain the meal and elements, such as the bread of affliction eaten in the wilderness. Jesus radically alters the story by saying he is their bread. His blood is their new covenant and they are to not only be marked with it but to drink it.

Tim Keller well says, "All love, all real, life-changing love, is substitutionary sacrifice. You have never loved a broken person, you have never loved a guilty person, you have never loved a hurting person except through substitutionary sacrifice." When we love the needy we take on their guilt, share in their hurt, sometimes share in their ostracism. It costs us. Jesus shepherds us to safety and life at the cost of his life.

Jesus will not drink the fourth cup that celebrated new relationship with God until he has cut a new covenant with his blood. He is totally committed to them.

Note how well Mark has prepared us for this Passover: Jesus had provided the bread in Mark 6:36ff. Jesus had provided the bread in Mark 8:4ff. Jesus had warned against feeding on the bread of the Pharisees.

The Lord's Supper is how we remember and apply the New Passover: Celebrating deliverance through the death of the first-born. We are spared/the angel of death passes over us. Now Jesus blood marks my body (sprinkling in baptism). And more than that, I drink in the life of his blood poured out. Christ is around me, in me, beside me, before me!

Jesus and his small band of men seem insignificant in a city packed with thousands of groups of 10 or more celebrating and remembering. Yet this is the most important meal in all of history. Scripture gives us both event and explanation.

Mark 14:25 *I will never drink again...until* The end is near *When I drink it new* The kingdom is certain.

Mark 14:26 After singing a hymn... from the Hallel Psalms, here, 116-118.

118:1/Isa 12:2 Behold, God *is* my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD, the LORD *is* my strength and *my* song; he also *is* become my salvation. (Isa 12:2 KJV)