



Mark 14 takes us into the final 48 hours before Jesus' arrest & crucifixion. The account tells us of people surrounding Him and interacting with Him to the point that it must have felt emotionally suffocating, even for the Lord. And as you read closely, it is the diversity and the disparity of people's responses to Jesus that will absolutely blow your mind! Mark shows us folks who could not have possibly hated Jesus any more than they did and others that could not have loved Him any more than they did. And as it was then, so it is now - *polar opposite responses to Christ*. Jesus isn't someone you just walk past and forget once you've crossed paths with Him. No, you either end up loving Him or leaving Him. And if you choose to stay & love Him, then you're called to keep that love aflame! So, let's look at these varied responses and learn how to connect with Jesus in the way He deserves & quite truthfully demands.

LOOKING AT THE DIVERSE RESPONSES

1. (vv.1-2) The Pharisees –
2. (v. 3) Simon The Leper –
3. (v. 3) The Woman –
4. (vv.4-5) The Disciples –
5. (vv. 10-11, 17-21) Judas Iscariot –

6. (vv. 12-16) Two Men & A Jug –

7. (vv. 22-26) The Disciples Again –

WHAT WE NEED TO LEARN

Realization: Be aware of how easy it is to fall into a ...

Response: Real passion for Jesus shows up as a combination of ...

Relationship: Count on His passion for you to constantly ...

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of PJ's message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.

1. Read aloud Mark 14:3-10 & John 12:1-3 in order to get a full picture of all the people at this dinner party for Jesus. What would it be like to have all these folks together? Describe the conversation you'd be hearing. What do you think you'd be feeling at this meal gathering featuring the Lord Himself; the recently resurrected Lazarus along with his sisters, Mary and Martha; Simon the host with leprosy; Judas & the rest of the disciples?
2. Describe what it must have been like in that room when Mary poured the costly oil upon Jesus' head and feet and then wiped His feet with her hair. What do you suppose motivated her? Are we called to be as expressive and extravagant in our own love for Jesus as she was? If so, what might that kind of love look like coming from you?
3. Can you identify with the disciples who were definitely serving Jesus, but in the process, had somehow allowed their souls to become cold and sour as they did so? How do we get into a negative spot of serving Christ, but with an attitude that is bitter? How do we get out of that kind of place and serve our Lord with a sweetness of spirit?
4. What are all the good qualities that you see in this passage which demonstrate the kind of heart that is needed in responding to Jesus with passionate love and honor?