
The Final Night

When Jesus comes to his last night, he chooses to be with his closest companions. It is the time of the Passover Feast in Jerusalem, when it is customary for the Passover lamb to be sacrificed. The table is set, the bread and cup are served. Put yourself in each situation described in this passage, seeing the people, hearing the conversation, feeling the emotions experienced by the disciples and Jesus.

Read Mark 14:1-11

1. What different attitudes toward Jesus do various people express in this section?
2. How does Jesus evaluate the woman's actions (verses 3-9)?

What decision does Judas make, and why at this point?

Read Mark 14:12-26

3. What preparations has Jesus made in order to celebrate the Passover with his disciples (verses 12-16)?

Why might the mention of the exact address of the place be a danger at this point?

4. What does Jesus reveal to his disciples during supper?

What does their reaction reveal about them?

5. What is Jesus trying to teach his disciples in verses 22-25?

Note: A covenant is a binding and solemn agreement between two or more persons to do or not do something specified. In the Old Testament, God made a covenant with the Jews that promised them that he would be their God, and they would be his people.

Read Mark 14:27-31

6. What prompts Peter to make his boast in verse 29?

How is this an implied insult to the other disciples?

7. What does Jesus know about Peter that Peter does not yet know about himself?
8. Why does Peter make his boast and pledge even stronger?

What do the others do?

Read Mark 14:32-42

9. What insight do you get into the heart and mind of Jesus?

How and why do Jesus' disciples fail him?

How does he react?

10. What impresses you about Jesus' treatment of his disciples in his hour of supreme loneliness?

Read Mark 14:43-52

11. If you were a film director assigned to reproduce the events in this section, what scenery, props, costumes, characters, and actions would you use?

What major impressions do you want to make on those who will see the film?

12. What type of group is sent to arrest Jesus?

How does Jesus respond in the situation?

How are the words of Jesus in verse 27 fulfilled?

Note: Many believe that Mark, the writer of this book, is the young man in verses 51 and 52. The Last Supper probably occurred in the upper room of Mark's mother's house. The linen cloth was probably Mark's bedsheet. He may have been on his way to warn Jesus against the mob, which he heard approaching through the night.

SUMMARY

1. What impressions do you get of Jesus:
 - in the house in Bethany (verses 1-10)

 - at the last supper (verses 12-25)

 - at his arrest (verses 43-52)

2. What impressions do you get of Jesus' friends?

3. What impression do you get of his enemies?

CONCLUSION

Tenderness and terror, intimate fellowship and stark loneliness, brave words and feeble deeds fill this memorable evening. We are gripped by the profound emotions of these last hours before Jesus is separated from his disciples. Jesus sees every action—by the woman, Judas, the other disciples, the crowd—from the perspective of his approaching death and Old Testament Scripture.