



Journey through the Gospel of Mark: How Much Does Worship Cost You?

September 3, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Joel Schmidgall

Scripture: Mark 14:1-11, John 12:2-7, Matthew 26:6-13, Psalm 51:17

Sermon Overview: Two days before the Passover, in the midst of the priests and the scribes plotting to kill Jesus and Judas making plans to betray Him, Mary publicly and extravagantly worshiped Jesus. Mary's worship cost her a year of wages and her dignity. What has your worship cost you?

Sermon Series Question:

1. Who do you say that Jesus is? How does that affect how you worship?

Sermon-Specific Questions:

1. God doesn't look at the size of the gift but the size of the sacrifice. Can you think of a time that you gave something apparently small but was in fact a sacrificial offering to the Lord? Though it might be scary, can you ask God, now, to show you how you can give sacrificially again (or for the first time)?
2. Read Mark 14:4-6 and Matthew 5:9. God is not concerned if you're right, but if you're righteous. God says, "Blessed are the peacemakers." He did *not* say blessed are those who are right. Compare how the disciples sought to be right versus how Mary sought to be righteous. How could the disciples have sought peace instead? How does our culture idolize being right over seeking peace? How do you think that affects our worship?
3. Our worship is prophetic. Mary's anointing pointed to Jesus' identity as the Christ, the Messiah-King, and the Servant-King, and it foreshadowed His coming death. Is there an act of worship that you have desired to display to the Lord, and yet you have allowed the opinions/feelings of others to affect your worship? How can you worship before the Lord with all your might?

Digging Deeper:

1. Compare Mark 14:1-11, John 12:2-7, and Matthew 26:6-13. What details do you glean from the accounts of John and Matthew that you didn't see in Mark? Read Luke 7:36-50. Luke gives another account of a different woman who broke her alabaster jar in worship of Jesus. Compare and contrast Luke's account with Mary's story from Mark, John, and Matthew. What is the Lord highlighting for you across these accounts?
2. Read Mark 13 & 14. What verse or story stood out to you from these two chapters? Meditate on that verse or story this week.

Practical Application:

- Make a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).
- House of Prayer is on summer hiatus. The fall season of [House of Prayer](#) begins, Thursday, September 7, 7:14pm
- Join a group, a ministry team, or mission partner at our Fall Expo on September 10!
- Get in community by joining a [small group](#).