

Predictions & Pictures of Jesus' Death

Mark 14.1 – 15.15

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Telos: The Gospel writer now begins to describe and interpret the central event of our faith – the death of Jesus.



Introduction

- A. The Gospels devote about one-third or more of their narrative to the Passion of Jesus.

- B. The death of Jesus is so central that in these “biographies” of Jesus, covering approximately three years of ministry, a great deal of the narrative describes and interprets the Lord’s death.

I. Religion Is Not Necessarily A Friend Of Jesus (14.1-2)

- A. The death of Jesus begins with a *plot* that sets in motion the events leading to this death.

- B. We live in a very religious atmosphere today and so we must remember that *religion is no guarantee of friendship with Jesus.*

- C. What could we learn from this?

II. Enter Only With A Heart Of Devotion (14.3-11)

- A. The story of the woman who anointed Jesus with perfume.
- B. What are some of the questions we need to ask in light of this woman (remembered by all the gospel writers)?

III. Understand That Jesus Is The Passover (14.12-26)

- A. You find here the celebration of the ancient rite called “Passover.”
- B. But now, that sign of deliverance finds fulfillment in a *greater deliverer, the Lord Jesus!*
- C. You have here a **RADICAL REINTERPRETATION** of this Passover – something that surely stunned the original disciples!
- D. The nature of this Table – it is first a *gift of God to us and NOT our giving to God.*

IV. Jesus Gives Hope Even In The Face Of Failure (14.27-31)

- A. Here Jesus predicts that all the disciples will all desert him and they protest.

B. But of course, like the disciples, we do not hear the word of GRACE, we, instead hear the word speaking of our FAILURE.

C. Peter, in his self-righteous fury, declares not only that **he will not fall away**, but that he will even **DIE** before that happens!

D. But Jesus goes on to destroy any illusion of strength.

V. Preparation Through Prayer (14.32-42)

A. Jesus obviously felt *overwhelming sorrow!*

B. The only thing that prepared him for such a task was **PRAYER**.

VI. Willingly, Sovereignly Giving His Life (14.43-52)

A. Here you find Jesus betrayed by one of his own – Judas.

B. Jesus is abandoned by the rest of the disciples, yet he remains sovereign over his own death.

VII. Contrasting Glory And Shame (14.53-72)

A. It seems that the passage intends to contrast the two responses given here.

B. See first the glory of Jesus.

C. See the shame of Peter in his denial.

D. In this story of suffering, Jesus reaped glory through suffering, Peter reaped shame by avoiding it.

VIII. See The Purpose Of Jesus' Death (15.1-15)

- A. At the trial, before Pilate, Jesus remains silent.
- B. You see the **power of the gospel** set against the **power of the kingdoms of this age**.
- C. He dies instead of Barabbas an *insurrectionist*.

Conclusion

- A. In the gospels you see Jesus disclosing his identity and purpose through his words and actions and the words and actions of others.
- B. And so we see that Jesus is the object of devotion, the new Passover, a minister of hope and grace, the sovereign and glorious Savior.