

Lent: The King is Anointed . . . for burial. Mark 14:1-11

As Jesus draws closer to the Cross, he is prepared for the journey ahead by the providence of God's hand. God is in complete control, though we don't see it initially. Nothing is left to happenstance or chance - this is the crowning moment of God's love for His world.

The account of Jesus being anointed by Mary, the sister of Lazarus, is found in three of the four gospels. Make sure you read both Mark and John's account, and read Matthew's, too, if you have time.

- Matthew 26:6-16; Mark 14:1-11; John 12:1-13

Questions:

1. Read John 11:1-57. It seems as if raising Lazarus to life is the final straw for the religious leaders. They want to kill not only Jesus, but Lazarus, too.
 - As the Passover draws near, what seems to be the mood around Jerusalem?
 - What do you think most people are thinking will happen between Jesus and the religious leaders?
 - What does this imply concerning Jesus' stature with the general population?
2. Read Luke 7:36-50. Take a moment to note the differences in this account of perfume being poured on Jesus and the other three. These differences make it clear that this account is not the same, and happened earlier in Christ's ministry.
3. Go back now to Mark 14:1-11. Ken stated that God is in complete control of what is happening as Jesus journeys to the Cross.
 - Why is it important that this is very clear? What happens when we lose sight of this truth?
 - What things in our world today would be better understood by embracing that God is in control?
4. It seems that Mary and Judas may be the only ones that accept the coming death of Christ. Yet both take completely divergent paths leading away from this truth.
 - When have you been Mary, embracing Christ to the point of looking silly in the eyes of others?
 - When have you been Judas, wanting to get off the bus, and take your treasure with you?
 - How are both on them within us, and which one are you feeding more?
5. PK taught that Jesus is the perfume that God pours on us. Its aroma takes away the stench of our sinful lives, and becomes an overpowering scent for those around us.
 - Who are those around you who are smelling Jesus within you, and beginning to draw closer? Pray for them, that your life will continue to be God's scent that they will desire.
 - Who are those in your life that think you stink? Pray that the stink is not you, but God in you, and that they will finally realize that what they are smelling is the healing balm of God's goodness for them. Pray knowing that you may have to endure criticism, ridicule and rejection, just as Christ, too, endured.