

**SERMON:** An Extravagant and Costly Love  
**SERIES:** The Gospel of Mark  
**SPEAKER:** Pastor Mark

February 4, 2018

**CONNECT** (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

**REVIEW** (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

#### **SCRIPTURE:**

*Mark 14:1-11.*

*It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, <sup>2</sup> for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people."*

*<sup>3</sup> And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. <sup>4</sup> There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? <sup>5</sup> For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her. <sup>6</sup> But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>7</sup> For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. <sup>8</sup> She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. <sup>9</sup> And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."*

*<sup>10</sup> Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. <sup>11</sup> And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.*

#### **SERMON OUTLINE:**

- I. Devotion to Jesus.
- II. Devotion to Jesus is criticized.
- III. Devotion to Jesus is empowered by Jesus.

**GROW** (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

1. Read John's version of this account in John 12:1-8. What do we learn by comparing these two passages?
2. What is your alabaster flask (that thing that gives your life its meaning, value, or hope)? Can you see God exposing this thing in your life so that you learn to trust him instead?
3. The disciples criticized Mary's act as wasteful. Pastor Mark said "the world will never have a problem with moderate or measured Christianity." Is your devotion to Christ costly in some way? Is there anything in your life that you give to Christ that the world might call wasteful?
4. How was Mary able to be fully devoted to Christ when the other disciples missed it? Read Luke 10:38-42. Mary had spent her life in worship and service to Jesus, so that when it was needed, she was able to give her most prized possession to him easily. What are ways that you can be at the feet of Jesus in worship of him?
5. How does the extravagant and costly love of God for you in Christ, allow your heart to love and trust him in costly ways? How can you, in love and trust, give your "alabaster flask" to God?

Prayer: Thank and praise God for his extravagant love for us, especially at the cross. Ask God to increase our love and devotion for God and to show us ways that we can honor Christ with our lives.