Series: Starting Line-Gospel of Mark Message: Final Preparations

April 1, 2012

# Bethany: A reckless act of worship.

Mark 14:1-11, Psalm 9:1, Psalm 146:1-2, Hebrews 13:15

- 1. Affects everyone.
- 2. Will be met with criticism.
- 3. He will never forget it.

### Upper room: Preparing the disciples (you & me) for:

Mark 14:12-31, 1 John 1:9, 2:1-2, Hebrews 7:24-25, 1 Peter 2:241, Peter 5:8, John 10:10, Ephesians 6:11

- Betrayal
- Failure
- Forgiveness
- Power

#### The Garden: Final Decisions

Nehemiah 4:9, Mark 13:33, Ephesians 6:18, Colossians 4:2, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6

- Brutally honest prayer.
- <u>Acknowledge</u> the power of the father.
- Determined to do what he came to do.

# My intentional momentum:

I will worship Jesus openly and honestly. I will remember what he has done for me. I determine to follow him in how I live my everyday life regardless of my circumstances.

### **NEXT STEPS**

In Mark 14:1-11 the woman anoints Jesus. The woman's act is in one sense an act of worship. What light, if any, does this incident shed on the competing claims for beauty in worship and concern for the poor?

Do we place the act of worship in the same place of honor and importance as Jesus? Or are we similar to the disciples.

During the Passover feast Jesus tells the Twelve that one of them will betray him. What do you think they were feeling as they responded to his announcement (v. 19)?

Did Judas have a choice?

How do small compromises lead to sin?

Avoiding repeated sin and failure is something we all hope to do as we follow Christ. But we all have also seen others experience, or have experienced ourselves, the reality of falling back into the same pattern of repeated sin and failure. Fortunately, God has given us some spiritual practices that can help decrease the temptation to presume upon God's second chances and at the same time strengthen us for consistent obedience. How might the following passages speak to this?

Psalm 119:9-11

1 Corinthians 15:33

Philippians 4:8
2 Timothy 2:22
Read verses 22–24. Regardless of how literally we take them, what are the bread and cup of the Lord's Supper to symbolize for us?
What was hinted at in Passover is fully revealed in Communion – Jesus Christ is the lamb who died for our sins. His sacrifice made it possible for Christians to experience a whole host of spiritual "benefits." Read the following verses and write down the spiritual benefit each one talks about.
Ephesians 1:7
Ephesians 2:18
Colossians 1:13-14
Romans 5:1
Which one of these is most encouraging to you? Which one are you most likely to overlook?

# **TAKING IT HOME**

Preparing for Holy week (week of Easter).

- 1. Prepare your heart by reading the Lenten devotions.
- 2. Worship God in prayer, singing, write him a letter of thanksgiving, etc.
- 3. Pray about reaching out to people around you with an invitation to join you this Easter.
- 4. Take action this week to invite others.

**Prayer Requests**