

A Beautiful Thing

Mark 14:1-11

Philippians 4:8 Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy—dwell on these things.

Into the Lesson:

In anticipation of some rather “dark” verses (vv.1&10) spend some time looking at a singular “lovely” event in these parallel passages:

Matthew 26:6-13-

Mark 14:3-9-

John 12:3-

Luke 7:36-38 (Although a separate event from those above, no less “beautiful” expression of devotion)-

Into the Word:

After reading Mark 14:1-11, develop your own version of verses 1-2.

One example: “We want the guy dead, but we don’t want to look bad in the process”.

From the introduction of Lane’s sermon, how do we account for the fact the “Jewish religious elite” that was so sure of their teachings, totally missed Jesus?

Spend some time revisiting some of the attempts by the Jewish leaders to trap, or worse, Jesus and how their focus caused them to miss the mark.

Mark 3:2,6,22-

Mark 11:18,31-33-

Mark 12:12-13-

How do we account for the fact that there were some officials who didn’t completely buy into the “company rhetoric”?

Mark 5:21-24-

Mark 12:32-34-

Revisit Psalm 23 and contemplate Lane’s speculation that this beautiful passage was on Jesus’ mind during this, “Beautiful Thing” that He experienced.

As Lane pointed out, the Disciples, “just didn’t get it” and seemed as clueless as the Pharisees when it came to *missing the trees for the forest*.

Mark 12:41-44-

Knowing Judas was the chosen instrument for Jesus’ betrayal, what could have been playing out in his life during his three years with Jesus and the others that led him to this “dark end” (v.10)?

Do you think the Disciples wondered what they could have done differently to keep Judas on track?

How was it possible that Judas could see the miracles and yet find himself as we read in Luke 22:3?

Into Life:

How does the reality that a large group of people supposedly committed to the study of God’s Word or a smaller group, who spent three years sitting at the feet of the God of Creation could, “*totally miss it*” serve as a caution for us today?

From our previous studies, what role does Bible study and prayer play in our efforts to stay focused and alert?

What about those we encounter who seem too far down a “dark path”?

How can devotion to Jesus, as evidenced by the woman in verse 3, serve as a model for our lives.

What are some of the modern-day equivalents to an “*alabaster jar of costly perfume*”

What could happen if we prayed regularly for a “Divine Encounter” and the awareness of a “God Thing” in our daily lives?

Mark 14:6-9

⁶Jesus replied, “Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a noble thing for me. ⁷You always have the poor with you, and you can do what is good for them whenever you want, but you do not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body in advance for burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

This Week’s Songs:

God Is For Us

Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)

Teach Me To Surrender (Valley Original)

King Of Kings

You’ve Already Won

