

Small Group Guide

"What Is the Value of a King?" | Mark 14:1-11

Overview

This session explores Mark 14:1-11, a passage set just days before the crucifixion. Through the contrasting responses of religious leaders, an unnamed woman, and Judas Iscariot, we are challenged to examine our own value systems and ask a deeply personal question: What is Jesus truly worth to me?

Before You Meet

Read Mark 14:1-11 on your own. As you read, note which character in the passage you most identify with and why. Come prepared to share your honest reflection with the group.

Key Takeaways

1. **Spiritual compromise grows wherever righteousness becomes passive.** Evil works in the shadows and thrives when God's people stay silent and disengaged.
 2. **Nothing poured out for Jesus is wasted.** Whether large or small, every act of worship and service offered to Christ carries eternal value.
 3. **Heaven remembers what earth often overlooks.** The quiet, faithful, behind-the-scenes acts of devotion do not go unnoticed by God.
 4. **Betrayal comes from the inside.** Being close to the things of Jesus is not the same as being found in Jesus. The condition of the heart is what matters most.
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Discussion Questions

Opening

- When you think about the things you invest your time, money, and energy in, what does that reveal about what you truly value most?

Diving In: Spiritual Compromise (Mark 14:1-2)

- The chief priests and scribes had extensive religious knowledge yet plotted against Jesus in secret. How is it possible for someone to be deeply religious and yet far from God?
- The pastor said, "The best defense against evil is an offense for righteousness." What does it look like practically for a believer to go on offense rather than staying on defense in their daily life?
- Where in your own life might you be staying passive when righteousness calls you to act?

Diving In: The Woman's Sacrifice (Mark 14:3-5)

- The woman broke her flask completely, holding nothing back. What does that kind of all-or-nothing worship look like in everyday life?
- The disciples saw her act as wasteful. Have you ever done something for Jesus that others questioned or criticized? How did you respond?
- The pastor drew a contrast between the woman, who calculated Jesus' worth, and the disciples, who calculated the cost. Which posture do you find yourself in more often, and why?

Diving In: Heaven's Perspective (Mark 14:6-9)

- Jesus said of the woman, "She has done what she could." What does that phrase mean to you personally? Does it feel like enough, or do you struggle with feeling like your contribution is too small?
- The pastor mentioned that Moses had a staff, David had a sling, a boy had five loaves and two fish, and this woman had an alabaster flask. What is in your hand right now that God might be calling you to offer?
- Are there moments of faithful service in your life, or in the life of someone you know, that went unrecognized by others but you believe God saw? Share one if you are comfortable doing so.

Diving In: Betrayal from the Inside (Mark 14:10-11)

- Judas walked closely with Jesus, witnessed miracles, and still chose betrayal. What is the difference between proximity to Jesus and possession of Jesus?
- The pastor said, "Sin rarely struggles to find partners." How do you guard yourself against influences that encourage compromise or spiritual drift?
- Reflect honestly: Are there areas of your life where you have told Jesus He can have your heart but not something else, whether time, money, relationships, or ambitions? What would it look like to surrender that area fully?

Reflection Questions for Personal Use

These questions are for individual journaling or quiet reflection between group meetings.

- If someone observed how I spend my time, money, and energy this week, what would they conclude I value most?
 - Is there an opportunity to serve or worship God that I have been putting off? What is holding me back?
 - What does my private life reveal about the condition of my heart toward Jesus?
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Practical Applications

This week, choose at least one of the following:

- **Break something open.** Identify one resource, whether time, money, a skill, or a relationship, that you have been holding back from God. Take one concrete step this week to offer it to Him.
 - **Do what you can.** Find one small, unannounced act of service within your church, family, or community and do it without seeking recognition. Reflect afterward on how it felt to serve for an audience of One.
 - **Step out of the shadows.** If there is an area where you have been passive in the face of unrighteousness, whether in your home, workplace, or community, pray and ask God for the courage to speak or act with grace and truth.
 - **Examine your heart.** Set aside fifteen minutes this week for honest self-examination. Ask yourself whether you are truly in Christ or simply close to the things of Christ. If you have doubts, talk to your group leader or pastor.
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Closing Prayer Focus

As you close your group time, pray together over these three areas drawn from the sermon:

1. That God would reveal any areas of spiritual passivity or compromise in your individual lives and in your church.
 2. That each group member would have the courage to give freely to Jesus, holding nothing back.
 3. That your group would be a community where faithful, quiet service is celebrated and where no one walks alone in their struggles.
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Memory Verse for the Week

Mark 14:8a — Reflect on the meaning of Jesus' words affirming that the woman had done what she could, and carry that thought with you throughout the week as a personal challenge and encouragement.