



Pointers and questions on the Gospel of

MARK

Session 9

14:1-72

Summary

- 14:1-11** A woman anoints Jesus at Bethany, pouring perfume on his head.
- 14:12-31** Jesus institutes the covenant meal and predicts Peter's denial of him.
- 14:32-65** Jesus prays in Gethsemane, where he is arrested to be brought before the Sanhedrin.
- 14:66-72** In fulfilment of Jesus' prophecy, Peter publicly denies the Lord.

Questions to get you thinking

1. Read 14:3-5. Isn't it fair to say that the objectors had a valid point in v4b-5 when you work out how much the perfume cost? Roughly how much would that be today (see v5a)?
2. Comment on 'She did what she could' (v8). What might 'doing what he/she could' mean as applied to you?
3. Read v12-26. Recall together what the annual Passover meal commemorated.
4. What massive change of direction did Jesus introduce into the set routine of the Passover meal here at the Last Supper (14:22-25)? What parallels was he implying existed between the Passover meal and the newly-instituted Lord's Supper?
5. Comment on Peter's affirmation in v29-31. Do you think he meant it?
6. Talk about the words of Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane in v36. What can we learn from this about praying in general?
7. If you were preparing a message on v38 to deliver to the church, what would your main points be? What everyday illustrations would you use to drive home each point?
8. Look at v46-47. Do you think armed resistance to opposition is ever justified for Christians? To help you with your discussion, look at the account of the same incident by Luke (22:49-51), who gives a few extra details.
9. Talk about v50. Would you have done the same as 'everyone' did here had you been around at the time? Will you *ever* do it? What does this verse tell us about the *cost* of following Jesus?
10. Look at v61a. Why do you think Jesus refused to argue his case? Does this imply that we, too, should not seek to defend ourselves against false accusation?
11. In v61b-62 Jesus at last comes out into the open with a public declaration of his identity. Any thoughts on his statement, 'I am', in v62?
12. As all Jesus' hearers well knew, his further words in v62 referred to two well-known OT passages: Psalm 110:1 and Daniel 7:13-14. Look them up and comment on how they reinforce the idea of his deity.
13. Comment on Peter's denial of Jesus in v66-72. How could he possibly do this, especially in the light of Jesus' prediction of it? What does the last phrase of the chapter tell you about what was going on inside his tortured mind and emotions?

