

## **Betrayal & The Sovereignty of God**

### **Mark 14:12-21**

### **The Gospel of Mark: Journey To The Cross**

Jesus is having His disciples prepare for the sacrifice of the Passover lamb...AND He Himself is preparing for His own sacrifice. He will be the *perfect* Passover lamb.

“Seemingly the victim, he is fully in charge of his destiny.” - Mark Strauss

Ephesians 1:11 “In Him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will”

Mark 14:12 “And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, ‘Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?’”

- A good meal, a good time with Jesus, takes preparation.
- They were celebrating the greatest act of deliverance and the creation of Israel as a nation.

Psalm 78:4 “We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonders that He has done.”

- People used to go to church three times a week. Now it’s three times a month.
- Preparing for battle. Preparing for a walk.
- Prepare to meet with God, to worship God.

Mark 14:13-16 “And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, ‘Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, 14 and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, ‘Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ 15 And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.’ 16 And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.”

- This was a meal. With friends. Celebrating God’s goodness and protection.
- When Jesus says something will happen, it does.

Mark 13:31 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

Mark 14:17 “And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. 18 And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, ‘Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.’ 19 They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, ‘Is it I?’ 20 He said to them, ‘It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. 21 For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.’”

- Jesus is comfortable with his friends.

Matthew 9:10 “And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples.”

- In Middle Eastern culture, betraying a friend after sharing a meal with him is the WORST kind of treachery.
- God could have stopped it.
- Matthew adds, “Judas, who would betray Him, answered, ‘Is it I, Rabbi?’ He said to him, ‘You have said so.’”

Why did Judas decide to betray Jesus?

Matthew 26:14-16 “Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?’ And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.”

- Judas sought the priests. His motive. His sin.

“God used a willing Satan, who used a willing Judas. God ordained that these things happen, but He did not prompt Judas to sin.” - David Gruzik

## **We don’t want a God who is not ultimately in control!**

- Judas was responsible for His sin -

“woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

- And yet God used it. -

“the Son of Man goes as it is written of him.”

- You are responsible for your sin. Always.
- But.
- God can use the WORST circumstances in your life, the worst sins, the worst things done to you, to bring Himself glory, and conform you more into the image of His Son.

Genesis 50:20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

**God...is always...in control.**