**BCM Bible Study – Nov. 10/11**

**Mark 14:1-52**

**Jesus Anointed at Bethany**

Discussion starter: **When you give a gift to a family member or close friend, is it more likely to be uber practical and something needed or somewhat frivolous and fun?**

Read Mark 14:3-9. \**When an unexpected situation or opportunity comes up, do you tend to be optimistic or pessimistic about the changes or possibilities in front of you?**

**How did the woman define the moment?**

**How did the disciples and others define the moment?**

**How did Jesus define the moment?**

**What stands out most to you in his comments about her? Why did he lift up her story and her example as such an exceptional one?**

**In view of how Jesus has lavished his grace on us, what would be seem modern day expressions of how we might lavish Jesus with love and gratitude for what he has done for us?**

**Last Supper**

**Is there a symbol or story from Scripture that stands out as being the most consistently meaningful to you in your faith journey?**

Read Mark 14:12-16. **Which areas in life are the ones that are most anxiety ridden and the hardest to follow and trust God with the details – academics, finances, relationships, decisions, conflicts, other?**

Read Mark 14:17-26. **Do you regularly take communion at a church? If so, how do you personally practice communion in a way that keeps it from getting so familiar that it loses its sense of meaning?**

Mark’s account has three points of emphasis in the words that Jesus shares with his disciples:

1. He gave them the bread and told them, “Take it; this is my body” **Consider this quote:** “The metaphor tells us that Christ is absolutely indispensable. Bread was the staple of life in those days. Spiritually it is impossible to live without Christ.” (Hughes) **When you take communion, what usually hits you the most, the sobering part, the hope generating part, or a mix of both?**
2. He passed the cup and told them, “This is the blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.” All of the Jewish sacrificial system had been taught and practiced for centuries all to point to this week in history.
3. He added, “Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” **Though they may not have understood it when Jesus spoke it, in what ways could this provide hope for them later when they remembered these words?**

**Peter’s Denial Predicted**

Read Mark 14:27-31. **Why do you think Jesus told his disciples (first all of them then specifically Peter) that they would “fall away” and “disown” him? And why does Jesus mark this as a moment of prophecy fulfilled as in v.27 he quotes Zechariah 13:7? What purposes did Jesus meet by this prediction of denial and highlighting of prophecy?**

**Gethsemane**

Read Mark 14:32-42 - **What most grabs your attention in these verses…**

* **To see Jesus deeply distressed and troubled (33) and falling to the ground (35)?**
* **To see Peter, James, and John fall asleep three times (37,40,41)?**
* **To see Jesus ask his disciples to rise as he leads them to meet his betrayer (42)?**

**Why does that particular happening grab your attention the most?**

**How do this verse and Mark 14:32 help you better understand the agony of what Jesus was willing to go through to free us?**

Challenge for this week – Going back to the first verses we studied tonight, think about “lavished love and grace” – how the woman lavished love to Jesus by anointing him and how Jesus has lavished grace upon us. When walking across the drillfield or doing mundane tasks this week, let those be a reminder to focus on gratitude to God and lavish love on him in prayer and worship as you recount what he has done for you.