

**Mark Series 14**  
**Do a Beautiful Thing to Jesus**  
September 13, 2013

**I. WELCOME, 15 mins.**

Prepare a couple simple, fun and delightful icebreakers to help your group warmed up. Help your cell members to put aside their busy & tiresome life, prepare their hearts to come before God.

**II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.**

Prayerfully choose a few songs that will lead cell members to worship God. The worship leader should encourage cell members to come before the throne of God, see God in face, and lead them into God's presence. During this time, the cell leader will also lead the group to pray aloud for the following prayer items:

**A. MISSION ORGANIZATION:** \_\_\_\_\_, and their needs are: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please contact the church if you don't know the needs of the mission organization.)

**B. CHURCH MINISTRY:**

- 9/08-10/20 Equipping Class: Apologetics by Kevin Gordon
- 9/14 Men's Breakfast with Pastor Tong
- 9/19, 9/26, 10/17, 10/24 Course: ROLPLI Five Fold Ministry by David Cannistraci and Scott Abke.
- 10/6 Baby Dedication
- 10/18-10/20 Mission Conference

**C. New comer:** \_\_\_\_\_ Identify new comers before cell meeting.  
Sick members, friends or relatives: \_\_\_\_\_ Please also discuss how you may show your cares to them.

**III. WORD, 45 mins.** By sharing God's word, the group may discuss how to apply it to their daily lives.

**A. Sharing message from last Sunday's sermon:** (It would be helpful if you could listen on-line once again.)

1. What is the key message from last Sunday sermon? How God talks to you through the message?
2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

**B. Discussion Topic: Do a Beautiful Thing to Jesus**

**Scriptures:** Mark 14:1-11 (Please read Bible verses in turns)  
**Memorizing Verse:** "Leave her alone," said Jesus, "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. (Mark 14:6)

The Jewish people observe the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread to remember that it was God who delivered them out of Egypt; released them from being oppressed as slaves, then to become an independent country. Now, they looked forward to the arrival of the Messiah to deliver them from the Roman government. Unfortunately, malicious were the High Priest and the scribes who tried to kill Jesus, whom is the Messiah that everyone has long anticipated. Right on the day that God delivered the Jewish people, the Passover, they devised to put Jesus to death. What betrayal can be worse than this! Yet Mary, who loved God so much, understood what Jesus said earlier, and prepared to do a beautiful thing to Jesus.

1. The High Priest and the scribes were trying to kill Jesus. (1-2)
  - 1) The High Priest and the scribes were jealous of Jesus. They were afraid that the people would believe in Him: The High Priest and the scribes knew the Scripture very well. They were supposed to know that Jesus was the Messiah, but because of jealousy and having no authority like Jesus did, they were afraid that people would go after Jesus and not listen to them. As a matter of fact, after Jesus resurrected Lazarus from death, many people had chosen to believe in Jesus. (John 12:10-11)
  - 2) The High Priest and the scribes understood the law but broke it willfully: They knew all the commands, precepts and commandments. They knew very well that they shall not kill, and yet, they still went ahead to put Jesus to death.
2. Mary put the Alabaster perfume on Jesus. (3-9)
  - 1) Mary spent all that she had, bought a jar of Alabaster perfume and poured it on Jesus. (3) 1. Mary knew Jesus would be arrested and killed, as Jesus mentioned about his being killed

and resurrected (Mark 9:9, 10:34), Mary of Bethany (Mark 9:9, 10:34), understood what Jesus had said and kept it in her heart, thinking what she could have done for Jesus. 2. Mary saved money for Jesus' burial: She did not care about spending all her life-savings, and purchased the most expensive perfume that cost a whole year's wages and poured it on Jesus. It is obvious that Jesus is the most precious to her.

2) The disciples' and those present' response: (4-5) 1. Some thought she was too wasteful as the Alabaster perfume is the most expensive perfume (which cost a year's wage). 2. People seemed to love the poor more than the Lord; they felt that the money could have given to the poor rather than spending on Jesus. (John 12:6)

3) The response of Jesus. (6-9):

a. Jesus defended Mary: Not only did she listen to the Lord, but grasped the closest opportunity; she poured the invaluable perfume on Jesus beforehand to prepare for his burial.

b. Jesus rebuked his disciples: After Jesus foretold his death; the disciples did not do anything. This shows that they valued money more than the Lord and that they see helping the poor as more important than anointing Jesus.

c. Jesus praised Mary: He told everyone that what Mary had done to him was a beautiful thing. He even reminded everyone to remember her actions.

3. Judah Iscariot betrayed Jesus. (10-11)

1) Judah did not totally agree with what Jesus praised about Mary, he went to the High Priest and the scribes. By selling them Jesus' information, he earned money for his own pocket.

2) The High Priest was delighted that they could finally kill Jesus: Although Jesus was fully respected by the people, the High Priest was not sure exactly which one was Jesus. With Judah's help, they were able to recognize and arrest Jesus without making a commotion among the people. They were actually very delighted by Judah's suggestion and rewarded Judah with 30 shekels of silver so that they may arrest and kill Jesus. (Matthew 26:15)

### **Discussion: (Discuss according to the needs of your cell group)**

1. Who is the person or what is it that you hold the most precious?
2. Compare the difference among the High Priest and the scribes, Mary and Judah Iscariot. How do they respond differently to Jesus?
3. Why would Mary pour the expensive Alabaster perfume on Jesus?
4. Why were there such strong reactions from the disciples and those present? If you were there, what would you do?
5. What is the thing that you wish to do to Jesus?

### **Prayer:**

**Dear Jesus, we thank you and praise you. Thank you for telling us what a beautiful thing Mary has done to you and that you are glad of what she has done. Lord, I also want to be like Mary, to love you, honor you, and be able to understand what you have said. Help us to think what beautiful things we can do to you without considering the cost of them. I pray that you would guide us, help us to do as you said so that your will may be satisfied. I pray in Jesus name. Amen!**

### **IV. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.**

Please break into group of 2 or 3 to pray for each other's needs.