**God’s Servant Prepares, Part 1**

**Mark 14:1-24**

Truth: Heaven does not open its doors on account of our best deeds. Heaven opens its doors on account of Jesus’ cross. Our sin makes heaven impossible to the best among us. Jesus’ cross makes heaven possible for the worst among us.

**Main Idea: Jesus could not save us merely by living a sinless life. To be our Savior, Jesus had to die in our place as our Substitute.**

**Jesus is excoriated and His cross reviled.**

*I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.” (John 10:14-15* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#John_10:14)*)*

*No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." (Joh 10:18 ESV)*

PRINCIPLE: Those who reject Jesus may appear to be winning for a time, but God is using their rejection to add more glory to His Son. God is working even through the rebellion of Jesus-hating people to build His kingdom and to exalt His Son.

**Jesus is exalted and His cross received.**

*So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. (Joh 12:2-3 ESV)*

Truth: True and joyful worship is always compelled by wholehearted love for Jesus.

Truth: We will love Jesus more as we too sit at Jesus’ feet and listen. We will love Jesus like Mary if we listen to Jesus like Mary.

Question: What of Martha’s habits will we have to remove from our lives so that we can love Jesus like Mary loved Him?

Truth: When we value the cross of Jesus for what it is and what it accomplishes for us, no act of worship is too extravagant, no commitment to Jesus is too extreme.

Truth: Mary considers the death of Jesus to be a victory for Jesus. Since she loves Him, she worships Him in advance of His death in preparation for His burial.

Truth: No act of joyful worship goes unseen or unrewarded. Jesus honors everyone who honors Him. His eye is upon us and all we do for His glory is recorded in His book. Everything ever done for the glory of Jesus is noticed by God and will be rewarded by Him.

**Jesus is explained and His cross revealed.**

Truth: Jesus’ sacrifice does not save every person. Jesus sacrifice only saves those who believe in Him.

Truth: Jesus is our Passover lamb! When we personally apply His blood to the door of our own hearts, the angel of death cannot touch us! This truth lies at the heart of God’s Gospel.

*“For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.” (Exodus 12:12–13 ESV)*

Principle: The application of the blood would make clear, visible distinction between those who believed Yahweh and those who did not.

Truth: Death passes over all who by faith apply the blood of the Lamb.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” (John 5:24 [ESV](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#John_5:24))