

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Calvert, Mr. Hadley, Ashley Law, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Ms. Sowder, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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## How People Responded to Jesus' Approaching Death

By Derek Long

Mark 14 deals with some events which take place leading up to the death of Jesus in Mark 15. As one reads through Mark 14, they can observe how different individuals acted as Jesus' death was approaching. Let's examine some of their responses and think about lessons we can learn from each.

The first group of people we want to think about is the Jewish leaders. In Mark 14:1-2 we are told how, "the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put Him to death" (NKJV). These individuals viewed Jesus as a problem and were wanting to get rid of Him. Jesus had rebuked their sinful practices. In Mark 12:38-40 He said, "Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation" (NKJV). In Mark 11:15-19, Jesus drives out those who bought and sold in the temple. In response, the scribes and chief priests sought how to destroy Him. Some people viewed Jesus as an enemy. Some people

would have thought things would be better without Him. Some people were angered by Jesus' rebuke of their sinful practices. Are we like these people in how we respond to Jesus?

Mark 14 also shows us how Mary (John 12:3) responded to the approaching death of Jesus (Mark 14:3-9). She responded to the fact Jesus was about to die by taking the opportunity to show her great love toward Jesus. She had some very costly oil and was willing to use the oil to anoint Jesus' body for burial. Are we willing to demonstrate our love for Jesus like she did? Will we give ourselves to serve Him?

Mark 14 tells us of Judas Iscariot's response to Jesus' approaching death (Mark 14:10-11, 43-46). John 12:6 tells us Judas, "was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it" (NKJV). Judas had a problem with loving money (1 Timothy 6:9-10; 2 Timothy 3:2). He is willing to betray Jesus in order to gratify His desire for more money. Even though Jesus was approaching death Judas was thinking more about himself than about Jesus. He was looking for opportunities to enrich himself. Are we like selfish Judas in our actions? Does our love of money lead us away from serving Jesus?

Mark 14 shows us what the disciples did while Jesus was praying to the Father in Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42). The disciples used the moments leading up to Jesus' betrayal, arrest, trial, and crucifixion to sleep. Jesus had told them to "watch and pray" (vs. 34, 38). The disciples had an opportunity to prepare themselves for the temptation they were about to face by praying but failed to use the opportunity. The disciples had an opportunity to pray for what Jesus was about to go through and perhaps provide comfort to Jesus but they were sleeping. The disciples let a wonderful opportunity pass by them! Do we let

opportunities to do good pass us by? Do we allow temptation to come upon us while we are unprepared because we have failed to use our time in the best manner possible?

Mark 14 tells of an event which is not recorded in any of the other gospel accounts. In Mark 14:51-52, we read of how one young man responded to Jesus being betrayed and arrested. It says, "Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked" (NKJV). We do not know a lot of details about this young man. However, we know he fled as the other disciples did (Mark 14:50). Do we flee when following Jesus seems dangerous or do we remain loyal to Him?

Mark 14 shows Jesus is fully aware of His upcoming death. He institutes the Lord's Supper in Mark 14:22-26 to serve as a reminder to the disciples of His sacrifice after His death. He prays to the Father to let the cup pass if it is possible but is willing to carry out the Father's will (Mark 14:36). Jesus knows He is about to be put to death and yet He is willing to voluntarily sacrifice Himself for the sins of the world. Jesus said, "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. The command I have received from My Father" (John 10:17-18, NKJV). Jesus demonstrates His love for God and for us. Jesus demonstrates His obedience to the Father. Jesus goes to the cross knowing the outcome will be salvation is made available to the world (Hebrews 12:2).