

A Study of Mark – Lesson 38

Mark 14:1-2 and 10-11 Betrayal

14¹ Now the Passover / and the Festival of Unleavened Bread / were only two days away, / and the chief priests / and the teachers of the law / were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly / and kill him. /
2² “But not during the festival,” / they said, / “or the people may riot.”

...

14¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, / one of the Twelve, / went to the chief priests / to betray Jesus to them. /¹¹ They were delighted to hear this / and promised to give him money. / So he watched for an opportunity / to hand him over.

Vocabulary

1. **To scheme:** To make a secret plot. A plan of action. A diagram.
2. **Riot:** A violent disturbance. Unrest, demonstration, rebellion.
3. **To Betray:** To help the enemy. To be disloyal.
4. **Delighted:** Very pleased. Thrilled.
5. **Unleavened:** Having no yeast or raising agent. Spoken of bread.

Questions

1. What was the Feast of Unleavened Bread?
2. Who had to attend the Passover?

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3. Why were so many Roman soldiers in Jerusalem at the time of the Passover?
4. Why do you think Judas betrayed Jesus?

Notes

1. The Passover / and the Feast of Unleavened Bread / were two different festivals. / The Passover was one day, / and The Feast of Unleavened Bread / was on the following seven days. It was a minor festival with a week off of work.
2. The Passover:
 - One of three compulsive feasts.
 - All adult men / who lived within 15 miles / were required to attend.
 - Historical significance: / The Exodus story / tells of the passing over the homes / of the Hebrew slaves in Egypt / by the Angel of Death / who killed the first born /of the Egyptians. / Exodus 12 tells the story of Moses, / and the plagues set on the Egyptians / to show the power of the one God, / and to set the Hebrew slaves free. / The Hebrew slaves / were to put the blood of a lamb /on the doorpost / and the Angel would pass over their homes, / and their children would be safe. / The Deliverance of the Hebrews / from slavery / is celebrated / by the feast of the Passover.
 - Agricultural significance: / It marked the harvest of barley. / After the sheaf of barley / was waved before the altar of the Lord, / the people could cook / and celebrate / with the bread made from barley grain.
3. Preparation for the Passover:
 - Beginning a month before, / the message and meaning was taught / in the schools and synagogues.
 - The aim was / that all would be prepared / for the Passover.

- Bridges and roads were cleaned and repaired.
- A special thing was done. / The tombs of the Jews / were along the highways. / During the month before, / the tombs were whitewashed (painted white) / so the travelers would recognize them / and avoid inadvertently touching them. / To touch a dead thing / made the Jew unclean / and therefore unable to go to the Temple.

4. Psalm 122 was said to be sung by the pilgrims going to the Temple:

A song of ascents. Of David.

¹ I rejoiced with those who said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

² Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem.

³ Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together. ⁴ That is where the tribes go up—the tribes of the LORD—to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel.

⁵ There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

“May those who love you be secure.

⁷ May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.”

⁸ For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, “Peace be within you.”

⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity.

5. The historian / Josephus / gives us an idea / of how many people came. / In AD 65, / Cestius, / governor of Palestine / wanted to impress the Roman Emperor Nero / with the importance of the Jewish religion. / He asked the High Priest / to take a census of the number of lambs / that were slain at the Passover in one year. / The number, / according to Josephus, / was 256,500. / The law was / that there must be a minimum of 10 people for one lamb, / so that there must have been / close to 3,000,000 pilgrims in Jerusalem.
6. With so many Jews in Jerusalem, / the Roman government sent in military troops / to keep the peace. The Jews wanted freedom from the Romans, / and at this time nationalism was very high. Riots and rebellions were feared. / Troops were stationed in the Tower of Antonia /which overlooked the Temple.
7. The Priests were afraid / the followers of Jesus would cause a riot.
8. Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus / to the authorities, / the Romans and the High Priests. / John 12:6 tells us / that Judas was the treasurer / of the disciples of Jesus, / and that he had pilfered from the common purse. / Matthew 26:15 tells us / that Judas went to the authorities / and asked what price they would pay / for him to deliver Jesus. / The agreed price was 30 pieces of silver. / We do not really know / why Judas acted as he did. / Perhaps it was greed, or jealous, or the ambition for Jesus to begin a rebellion. We have many theories, but we do not know. In Dante's *Inferno*, Judas is put in the lowest or worst of all hells.



Tower of Antonia
overlooks the Temple
area