

“[RE]FRAME - Preparing for the New”

Scripture: Mark 14:1-11

Graphics: frames, pictures, anointing oil, coins

Big Truth: The story of Jesus’ final week on Earth has multiple levels of understanding and meaning. What the events and actions seem to be on the surface are not always what they appear. In our walk with Jesus in the church, it’s easy to lose sight of the bigger picture while reading or hearing about the events of Jesus’ life. This series will help us see the bigger picture through the scenes that lead to the cross and empty tomb on Easter.

Focus phrase: Jesus’ eternal plan is far greater than today’s trials or triumphs.

1. Introduction

- A. I want to thank everyone for spending a few minutes right now to settle in and focus on your screen or device. God CAN and WILL move across the internet to connect us. Pretend this is the final quarter of the big game and we’re about to see the game-winning touchdown. I KNOW the Holy Spirit can score the game-winner this morning with this gathered community.
- B. If you want to, I’d encourage you to use the Chat feature of Livestream or Facebook Live to check in, say Hi, ask questions, give praise and prayer requests. We can truly make this interactive.
- C. When I started thinking about preaching for today, given everything that’s changed so drastically in our lives this week, I thought about shifting gears to find a different scripture than the worship team had originally planned. I thought maybe Holy Spirit had a word for us from some new scripture.
- D. Then I realized that the Holy Spirit KNEW we’d be right where we are today. And the Holy Spirit knew, 100%, what we were going to read today for a scripture.
- E. The Holy Spirit DOES have a word for us today, as you’re sitting in your kitchen or living room, or wherever you are.
- F. AND, that word comes to us through the scripture that we planned months ago...and it continues through the story of Jesus’ last week on earth.
- G. We’ve entitled with series [RE]FRAME. For those who are joining us for the first time this week: the process of taking an old picture and putting into a new frame makes some things in the picture look different or new! Maybe there are colors you didn’t see before. Or maybe even PEOPLE you didn’t notice before you reframed it. It’s been REFRAMED.
- H. When we reframe **circumstances** in our lives, we experience things in a different way...with a new perspective...with different thoughts or actions.

- I. Right now, for churches, our communities, and our families, we could use some **reframing** to see something new...maybe more than we can see right now. I'm glad you're here today.
- J. To DO that, we're going to read a part of Mark chapter 14 this morning.
- K. Let me give us a short recap to see how we got to Mark 14. We started in Mark 11 a few weeks ago (you know, back in the "good old days", when things were like they've always been). In Mark 11, Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem...on a colt...as the new kind of King.
- L. Then we watched Jesus trash the Temple courts later in Mark 11. The question we asked was, "Does Jesus have my heart for Him? Is Jesus my first love?"
- M. Last week, it was all about **conflict**. Jesus walked THROUGH the conflict, not by destroying those who disagreed with him, but by sitting down and offering them a way to think differently - based on love. I'm thankful for the ways that our church has lovingly reached out to our community this week - providing WiFi access to students, coordinating food distribution, calming fears and praying for people, helping run errands, make phone calls...awesome!
- N. This morning, we'll see the conflict continue, but we'll also see that all the conflict seems so focused on the immediate...on what SEEMS urgent.
- O. And if there was ever a time for us to REFRAME the immediate and the urgent into a larger picture, NOW would be the time. Amen?
- P. Just a few days before Jesus' death on the cross, Judas and the religious leaders were pulling in one direction, and a woman who loved Jesus was pulling in another direction. Both of those directions were all about the immediate...the NOW...some with good motives...some with bad motives.
- Q. Jesus, though, was pointing in a different directions altogether...to an eternal direction...to his burial and resurrection...to a hopeful future, which gives US hope for today...and everyday.
- R. In your notes, write down, **Jesus' eternal plan is far greater than today's trials or triumphs.**
- S. This message is called **Preparing for the New.**
- T. Let's **PRAY!!!**
- U. I hope that each of you has a bible with you right now. If you don't, run and grab one since you may not be able to read the one on your screen while watching this Livestream. Grab some coffee while you're at it. If you don't have a bible, please message me and we'll mail one to you!
- V. Turn to Mark 14, starting in verse 1...

2. Scripture

- A. READ verses 14:1-11**
- B. I'm sure you picked up on the fact that there are 3 different scenes in this passage. Often, we like to focus on the part in the middle, where a humble woman breaks open a jar of expensive perfume and pours it on Jesus' head as an act of blessing and love. We'll get to that in a minute...
- C. But Mark puts THAT scene between the scene of the religious leaders trying to find a way to arrest and kill Jesus...AND, the scene where Judas, one of the twelve disciples actually went out to those religious leaders and betrayed Jesus to them.
- D. The religious leaders and Judas have some pretty bad motives in this.
- E. So what were the motives of the religious leaders? It really comes down to the fact that they wanted everything to stay exactly like it was. They were in power. They had people's attention. They had income and status and clout. And they were doing what they felt God had required of them.
- F. The NEW thing Jesus represented threatened their worldview...their lives.
- G. Judas also had some bad motives. For Judas, his motives were for something different, but Judas' different had more to do with his expectations of what Jesus was going to do...what kind of king Jesus was. Judas, and those who were aligned with his political ideologies, wanted Jesus to defeat the Romans - by force if needed, establish a new government, and reclaim Jewish authority. So, in a way, Judas' 'new' was actually old, and not NEW at all.
- H. Jesus came to prepare the Jewish people, and the world, for the NEW. But Jesus' NEW was not to re-establish Jewish rule or anything that HAD been, except for God's desire for the people to worship Him and serve Him...to LOVE him and LOVE others, we learned last week.
- I. So, when we focus in on the woman sitting at Jesus' feet in Bethany - who, in Matthew's gospel we learn is Mary, Lazarus' sister - we see part of the preparation that Jesus is going through to give the world the NEW...the new way...the new truth...the new life.
- J. She takes nard, expensive perfume used in small amounts to make things fragrant, and pours it out on Jesus' head. In her mind, she was being extravagant in showing her honor and love and thanks for Jesus.
- K. But the disciples were like, "What!?!? We could've used the amount of money we'd get if we sold that perfume to feed a whole bunch of poor people!"
- L. And there's no doubt that it's true...the year's wage that the perfume cost would've indeed fed hundreds...thousands, even.
- M. But Jesus REFRAMES this for the disciples and for the woman at his feet.

- N. Not only does Jesus affirm that what she's done was good...and based on good motives...but was preparing HIM and THEM for the NEW.
- O. And that new wasn't about military might or political power...it was the NEW life offered through faith in Jesus as the Son of God and Messiah they'd been waiting for. It was the NEW that comes when the kingdom of God breaks into the world because of Jesus.
- P. All three of these groups or people had a set of expectations about the immediate circumstances they were in.
- Q. Jesus takes the whole scene and REFRAMES it to point to an eternal plan that is FAR FAR greater than the immediate.
- R. Jesus, gives them all a view of the eternal future when he says, "She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."
- S. Even though Mary was doing something in the immediate - the only things she knew how to do for Jesus - her actions were REFRAMED in Jesus' eternal perspective! It's not about the anointing...it's about the fact that the anointing would lead to the cross, the tomb, the EMPTY tomb, and the RISEN JESUS forever, amen! And we're STILL talking about her today!
- T. Judas, and, as we'll find out, the religious leaders, couldn't go to the new frame with Jesus...they were stuck in the way things were...and in the way THEY wanted them to be.
- U. Jesus was preparing the world for the NEW.

3. Application

- A. **Jesus' eternal plan is far greater than today's trials or triumphs.**
- B. I know you don't need one more reminder that the world and your life is very different than they were even a week or two ago.
- C. Today's trials are huge...and they may get worse before they get better.
- D. Even the triumphs of today - being able to reach out to you for this worship, ways that you've made the adjustments needed at home or work, prayers that have been lifted up and answered - those things are great but they, too, are NOT the whole picture.
- E. Jesus has been preparing the world from the Fall after Creation to one day experience the perfection of that Creation moment again...this time, with Jesus as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- F. In Revelation 21:5, we're reminded that "[God] is making all things new", when Jesus returns. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 2 that, when

Jesus does return, every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of Lords...and King of Kings.

- G. My question for you this morning is: Are you allowing Jesus to prepare you for the NEW today?
- H. If you were to take a snapshot of your life today, it would include COVID-19, self-distancing, hand sanitizer, and hand-washing to the Lord's Prayer.
- I. Jesus REFRAMES **all that** to tell you and me that there will be a day when we are free of COVID-19. Certainly, there will be a day when we can hug each other, go to work without fear, and eat out...Jesus is sure of that, as am I.
- J. But, here's the GOOD NEWS church, (if I've lost you, now's the time to come back), **Jesus is preparing us for a NEW day, when not only COVID-19 is defeated, but cancer is cured, the flu is gone, and pain, and sadness, and depression, and greed, and sin, and every weight that holds us down and everything that isn't God's perfect plan will be destroyed!** That NEW day is coming...and today, however serious it is, will be in the past and forgotten as we kneel at the feet of Jesus...worshipping...giving him praise and glory...and pouring our OWN nard at his feet...not trying to create or politic our way out of our messes, but leaning FULLY on the everlasting arms of Jesus.
- K. Jesus' eternal plan is far greater than today's trials or triumphs.

4. Conclusion

- A. REFRAMING our lives right now with Jesus in the picture gives us hope that we WILL get through this together with Him.
- B. We don't know what tomorrow holds, but Jesus will be there with us.
- C. For those who feel isolated and lonely, pray...Jesus is listening.
- D. For those who are scared and fearful, pray...Jesus is holding you up.
- E. For those who are sad and depressed, pray...Jesus is lifting your head to Him.
- F. NOW is the time to listen to the people around us who know what they're talking about. NOW is time to be safe and stay healthy - I love every single one of you and I don't want ANY of you to be sick, scared, lonely, or sad.
- G. The world has slowed everything down, which simply means that the CHURCH has people's attention. Jesus has always been, is, and will be Lord and Savior. Our job, for today and this week, is to take EVERY opportunity to point to Jesus. He's already scored the winning touchdown! He's already saved the world! He's already prepared the NEW DAY for us!
- H. Church, there IS a new day coming...there always HAS been, there always WILL be...until we get there and see Jesus face-to-face.
- I. You are loved! Let's pray...