

RCC LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION (FACILITATOR)

MARK CHAPTER 14

Discussion Starter

- What is the craziest thing that you have ever done in the name of love?

Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer

Tell the Story

Read the Story (Mark 14:1-72)

- Read out loud as a group, 5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way **BUT** there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Mark 14:3-9

- What is the significance of Jesus being in the home of Simon the leper?
 - Lepers were unclean by Old Testament Law and not supposed to be inside the "city gates." Jesus being in the house of Simon the leper to "hang out" and love on him and others is yet another statement of Jesus being intentional in His love of all people. There are no barriers. Jesus' love, grace, and mercy are for all and He intentionally makes great efforts to let all know this!

- What do you think it means to love extravagantly?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- How was the woman loving Jesus extravagantly?
 - This woman was first taking some risks as a woman. Since women were considered property in that time, a female approaching a male without invitation “should not have happened.” She then took perfume that was estimated to be worth a year’s wages and gave it all up to and for Jesus. If she cared about what people around her thought, she certainly didn’t allow those cares to drive her actions.
- In what ways are you loving Jesus extravagantly like this woman? In what ways can you improve in loving Jesus extravagantly?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Mark 14:12-25

- There were many different details of the Passover, which the disciples prepared but here are few that the disciples would have been responsible for preparing including the significance attached to each one.
 - The Passover lamb to remind them of how the angel of death passed over the houses of the Israelites while they were in Egypt.
 - The unleavened bread to remind them of how they had to leave Egypt quickly.
 - The bowl of salt water to remind them of the tears the Israelites had shed in Egypt and to remind them of how God had parted the Red Sea.

- The collection of bitter herbs to remind them of the bitterness of their slavery in Egypt.
- Four cups of wine to remind them of God's promises in Exodus 6:6-7
- In light of some or all of these details, why do you think that Jesus was interested in celebrating the Passover with His disciples, especially so close to the end of His life?
 - Jesus loved these men with all of His heart and He, even at the end of His life was continuing to love them extravagantly. He knew how important it was to not only to continue to love them but also to celebrate and remember God's provisions that were going to continue.
 - Outside of communion, how do you remember and celebrate what God has done and is doing for you?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- How was Jesus continuing to show His love to Judas in verses 17-21?
 - Jesus could have left Judas hanging out to dry in front of the other disciples and probably would have been justified in doing so since He knew Judas was going to betray Him. But He chose not to do this. Rather, He chose to let Judas still think about what he was going to do, and He still chose to include Judas in the Passover meal and love Him all along the destructive path he chose.
 - How do you love people who have wounded you?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Mark 14:32-42

- Did Jesus want to go the cross? Did He have to go to the cross?
 - This passage lets us clearly know that Jesus did not want to go the cross. He asked His Father for another way. The cross meant death to Jesus. Now, the results of the cross meant something else entirely to Jesus. Jesus also didn't have to go the cross. See John 10:17-18. It was His decision and no one else's. Jesus went to the cross because He loved us and all of humanity, but Jesus also went to the cross to fully submit and surrender to His Father's will.
- In what ways do you not want to fully submit and surrender to God's will? What do you do in these times?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Mark 14:53-65

- How do you typically respond when you're mistreated, maligned, and/or falsely accused?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- How should this "trial" of Jesus before the religious leaders be described?
 - It was ridiculous and a hot mess. Lie after lie was told. The words of Jesus were twisted and taken out of context. The religious leaders broke established rule after established rule of their own court system of the day.
 - How did Jesus respond to all of this craziness and ungodliness?
 - He didn't respond to the craziness and ungodliness. The only thing that He had to say was about who He was. It is important to note that He only spoke about

His identity. He didn't seek to vindicate or justify Himself but rather, He pointed to His Father.

- What do you believe that Jesus' non-response and response should teach us today?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Mark 15)

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