

MARCH 15, 2020

Anger and Love

With each teaching and healing, Mark has been painting portraits of Jesus's journey to the cross. After three years of his ministry, we now come to two uncomfortable and culminating scenes (amidst many in chapters 11-14). The atmosphere here is tense. The glances are pregnant. The whispers are nervous. Imagine being in either of these spaces – the temple where Jesus displays the precision of wrath and action. Or in the room filled with perfume, where the awkwardness of waste and beauty collide in confusion. These are the scenes that prepare us *and are preparing Jesus* for what is about to happen.

The temple was a place where all of Israel could bring their sacrifices to God. At some point, it became *marketable* for some to provide these offerings for a price. Though *convenient*, it had become an abomination.

- Why do you think this bothered Jesus so much? (11:15-17)
- How does it make you feel to see Jesus get this upset?

Mark uses the word *indignant* to describe the feeling of disturbance and displeasure. The root of the word contains an aspect of being physically *bent*. Simply put, indignation is *anger*.

- How is Jesus demonstrating his indignation toward the activities in the temple? (11:15-17)
- Why were some indignant about the “waste” of the perfume? (14:4) How did Jesus demonstrate *displeasure* about their reaction?
- Is *indignation* different from or similar to *compassion*? How so?

In 14:6, Jesus said this woman did a “good” (also “beautiful”) thing.

- How was it “good”? (vs. 6, 8) And what promise does Jesus make as a result of her service to him? (v.9)
- **Apply it.** When are we supposed to reveal our conviction in healthy/helpful displays of anger? Where in your life do you find yourself experiencing anger when you *could* experience love?

^{11:15} Then they *came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves; ¹⁶ and He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple. ¹⁷ And He began to teach and say to them, “Is it not written, ‘MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS’? But you have made it a ROBBERS’ DEN.” ¹⁸ The chief priests and the scribes heard this, and began seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching.

^{14:1} Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread were two days away; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize Him by stealth and kill Him; ² for they were saying, “Not during the festival, otherwise there might be a riot of the people.”

³ While He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, there came a woman with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume of pure nard; and she broke the vial and poured it over His head. ⁴ But some were indignantly remarking to one another, “Why has this perfume been wasted? ⁵ For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.” And they were scolding her. ⁶ But Jesus said, “Let her alone; why do you bother her? She has done a good deed to Me. ⁷ For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them; but you do not always have Me. ⁸ She has done what she could; she has anointed My body beforehand for the burial. ⁹ Truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her.”

¹⁰ Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went off to the chief priests in order to betray Him to them. ¹¹ They were glad when they heard this, and promised to give him money. And he began seeking how to betray Him at an opportune time.