

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
011 - SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

LESSON TITLE: TAKEN AND TRIED

Memory Text: Mark 14:36 (NKJV) “And He said, “Abba, Father, all things *are* possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You *will*.””

Sunday - UNFORGETTABLE

This week’s lesson focuses on Mark 14, beginning with the fifth SANDWICH STORY, which interlinks two opposite actions in relation to Jesus. This is followed by the Last Supper, followed by His struggle in Gethsemane. There He is arrested and taken before the leaders to be tried. The trial scene is linked with Peter’s denial of Jesus, forming the sixth and last of the Sandwich Stories in Mark. Again, two opposite actions occur, but by an ironic twist, they affirm the same truth.

Mark 14:1–11 (NKJV) “(1) After two days it was the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take Him by trickery and put Him to death. (2) But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar of the people.” (3) And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head. (4) But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, “Why was this fragrant oil wasted? (5) For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they criticized her sharply. (6) But Jesus said, “Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. (7) For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always. (8) She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. (9) Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.” (10) Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him to them. (11) And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. So he sought how he might conveniently betray Him.”

What two stories are intertwined here, and how do they play off of one another?

TWO UNFORGETTABLE EVENTS ARE INTERTWINED:

1. **The Woman that Anoints Jesus.**

a. The highlight is not her name, but her action:

What we do must be more important than who we are: Mark 14:8-9 “She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. (9) Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”

When what we do becomes more important than who we are, then to Jesus, who we are becomes as important as what we have done.

“What this woman has done, will **also be told** as a **memorial to her.**”

IMPORTANT FOCUS OF MINISTRY:

- A. Do we do, what we do, to be remembered for who we are?
- B. What is the motive behind our service for Jesus?
- C. Are God’s entrusted gifts being used to rob Him of His exclusive glory?

- In this social media generation, we must guard the line between who we are and what we do.
- Too many internet posts are for the glory of the person and not the glory of God.

PRINCIPLES OF MINISTRY:

- A. **The Ministry of the Unobstructed:** John 3:30 (NKJV) “He must increase, but I *must* decrease.”
- B. **The Ministry of Delayed Acclamation:** 1 Peter 5:6 (NKJV) “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.”
- C. **The Ministry of Self-Abasement:** Matthew 23:12 (NKJV) “And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”
- D. **The Ministry of Self-Abasement:** Mark 10:31 (NKJV) “But many *who are* first will be last, and the last first.”

What we do will outlast who we are: Revelation 14:13 (NKJV) “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.””

The Transitional point is the word **“GOOD.”**

Mark 14:6 (NKJV) “But Jesus said, “Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a **good** work for Me.”

Mark 10:17–18 (NKJV) “**(17)** Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, “**Good** Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” **(18)** So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is good* but One, *that is*, God.”

2. **Jesus who is betrayed and Crucified:**

- a. Mark 14:21 (NKJV) “The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been **good** for that man if he had never been born.”

Mark contains a play on the word **“good”** in order to illustrate that two different motives, or plots, are in play in these stories. Jesus calls the woman’s action **“good/beautiful”** in Mark

14:6. He says you can always do “good” for the poor (*Mark 14:7*) and in Mark 14:9, He calls her deed part of the “Good News/gospel.” In Mark 14:11, Judas looks for a “good opportunity” (*ISV*) to betray Jesus. What this play on words suggests is that the plot of men to destroy the Messiah will actually become part of the gospel story because it brings to fruition the will of God in giving His Son for the salvation of humanity.

When we follow the Lord, our lives will be filled with the “Good” of the Lord.

Psalm 23:6 (NKJV) “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.”

Exodus 34:6 (NKJV) “And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,”

Romans 8:28 (NKJV) “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”