

## FURTHER STUDY:

### A. Scriptures (parallel Gospel accounts):

Matthew 26:17-56

Luke 22:7-53

John 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, & 18:1-11

### B. Suggested Reference Materials:

"The Last Week" Borg & Crossan

"Beautiful Outlaw" by John Eldredge

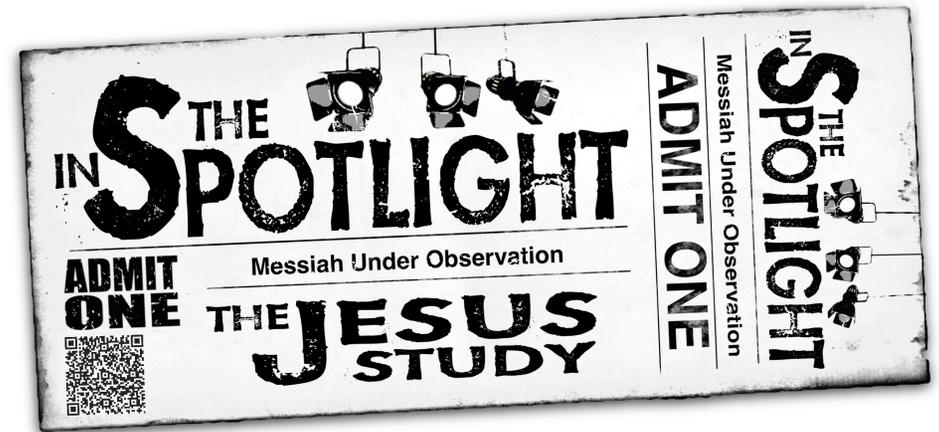
"The Jesus I Never Knew" by Phillip Yancey

"Walking in the Dust of Rabbi Jesus" by Lois Tverberg

Next Week: Mark 14:43-72; 15:1-15

*"The Lamb on Trial"*

You won't want to miss it!



## LESSON #20

### "The Passover Seder"

or

### "The Misunderstood Sacrament"

Mark 14:12-52

Focus Scripture:

Mark 14:50

"All of them deserted him and fled."

Food for Thought:

In what way is the Lord's Supper  
meaningful to you?



## Vocabulary Definitions:

**Feast of Unleavened Bread:** Seven day feast where no leaven is to be eaten, all leaven must be swept out of the house or burned prior to the feast.

**Passover/Seder:** A feast during the Unleavened Bread week-long celebration commemorating Israel's deliverance from Egypt, however, there are symbols to God's greater act of love toward all creation. Originally, a perfect lamb was slain on and eaten at the Passover Seder (*14th day of Nissan*), along with a liturgy of storytelling and worship and prayer. The feast was considered a sabbath, so no work could be done the day of the feast which began at sundown. Preparations could be made until around 7:00'ish, at which time the Seder meal began. With an extensive liturgy, meal, and four cups of wine, the dinner would go late into the evening. Depending upon the calendar, Passover sabbath many times conflicted with the normal weekly sabbath; Friday evening through Saturday, which may have resulted in two sabbaths in a row in the same week.

**Pesach** (Hebrew: פֶּסַח, Greek: 'pɛsa:x): a skipping or passing over. From the Exodus story of the angel of death passing over those houses which had the blood of a perfect lamb painted on their door posts. Jesus is referred to as the Pesach, or Pascal lamb, and the early symbol for Jesus comes from the 'p' and 'x' in the Greek. ✕

**Abba** (Αββᾶ): Aramaic. "Papa"

## Brief Historical and/or Cultural Context:

*It is the first day of the Unleavened Bread festival, an entire week of celebrating the Passover event, beginning with the Passover, or Seder meal. The tradition was meant for all family members, however, Mark's account states that only the chosen twelve are participating. As Gentile Christians, we tend to separate ourselves from the Jewishness of our faith, however this faith came into, and grew out of the rich heritage of a people called by God to be God's chosen, a light to the world, and a blessing to all nations. Jesus didn't come to change that, but to graft the world into the family. As Paul exclaims, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female. For we all are one in Jesus Christ." (Gal.3:28) Although Mark's Gospel is a scathing review of the chosen disciples, and those Jews in positions of power who cooperated with Rome, it is not a discourse against the Jewish people, the ordained priestly traditions and ceremonies, or the Temple itself. Therefore, by understanding Jesus' Jewishness we glean an abundance of insight into our Messiah, his relationship with the Godhead, and with God's people. The Seder includes a wealth of it.*

## Scene 1

**THE STAGE:** Read Mark 14:12-31

1. Set the scene, who what, where, and back at the Temple, what is taking place?
2. What other passage in Mark is similar to vs 13-15?

**THE SCRIPT:**

1. Note Mark says "the disciples" were asking about the Passover, but Jesus didn't answer, but asked two to go prepare. Why do you think Jesus may have been secretive about it?
2. During the meal portion of the Seder, Jesus drops the bombshell of his impending betrayal. What is the response from the men?
3. What makes you wonder about Jesus' response? Judas was offered the same bread and wine as the rest. Do you think Judas may have received forgiveness had he not taken his own life?
4. Let's reconstruct this portion of the Seder. (see insert)

## Scene 2

**THE STAGE:** Read Mark 14:26-42

1. Set the scene, who, what, where?
2. What second bomb does Jesus drop? And what are the reactions of the men?
3. What words does Mark use in this passage that describe the range of emotions in the scene?

**THE SCRIPT:**

1. How does Jesus speak to his father, and what does that tell you about their relationship?
2. How does Jesus react each time he finds the three men sleeping, and what is the one reaction recorded of their response?

**THE STAGE:** Read Mark 14:43-50

1. Set the scene, who, what, where?
2. Why do you think the arrest was set for late evening (note vs 48-49)?
3. Why do you think Judas would have known where to find Jesus?

**THE SCRIPT:** Read also Matthew 26:49-54; Luke 22:48-51; John 18:3-11

1. What are some additional details found in the other Gospels?
2. Compare Jesus' demeanor to those around him.

**THE REVIEWS:**

1. Re-read Mark 14:50. What are your thoughts, and what might you have done had you been there?