

**COLLIDE: When Heaven Meets Earth**

“Agony and Acceptance”

**Brent Van Elswyk**

April 6, 2014

**Introduction:**

**Scripture:**

Mark 14:32-42 Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane

**Bottom Line:**

**Exposition:**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of facing the cross! v. 32-35

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of going to the cross! v. 36-42

**Application:**

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**Application:**

**Community Group Curriculum**  
**For the week of April 6, 2014**  
**“Dawning of the King”**  
**Mark 14:1-52**

**BIG PICTURE**

The conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders is about to reach a climax soon to be followed with the triumph of the resurrection on Easter morning. Mark begins with a focus on Jesus' preparation for the suffering He will endure and with the hearts of those closest to Him. We see Jesus enter Jerusalem at the Passover which commemorates the covenant relationship between the Jewish people and God. Jesus will now be the new sacrifice to atone for all our bondage in sin with His blood on the door of our hearts, freeing us from the eternal punishment and judgment we were to receive. Thank you Jesus!

**LET'S DIG IN**

1. Read Mark 14:1-11

- a. Our focus begins with a woman's response and recognition of her king (1 Samuel 10:1, 16:2-3). Her sacrificial gift is her most precious possession she can offer. **How do the disciples react? What is their main objection?** Three hundred denarii was equivalent to a day laborer's yearly wage and 200 denarii could feed 5,000 people a meal. Judas Iscariot, the treasurer for the twelve disciples objects vigorously (John 12:4-5). **Was their response appropriate? What was Jesus' response to the woman's act of love and devotion? How do the disciples reactions reveal their understanding for what Jesus is being prepared to do?**

2. Read Mark 14:12-31

- a. Jesus foretells that one will betray Him. The disciples clamor for assurance that they would not be the one to do such a thing. But as we read through Mark we see none of the disciples will be above reproach on this. **What are the three indications Jesus gives that will point to His betrayer? What is the consequence for this act of betrayal that lacks repentance?** Judas had all the advantages of being in the inner circle yet betrayed Jesus. Behind Judas' action a divine purpose is being carried out, yet personal responsibility remains.
- b. The Passover would begin with a blessing and the first of four cups of wine. Psalms were then sung and the story of the Deliverance read, followed by the second cup of wine and the eating of the unleavened bread (represents being clean without the yeast or sin), the bitter herbs and the sauce (a stew of dried fruit, spices, and wine) into which the disciples dip their bread. Then the meal of roast lamb and bread is eaten. More prayers are said and the third cup is drunk. More Psalms are sung; the final cup is drunk, after which a Psalm is sung. Two short prayers end the feast. A new covenant of Lordship and obedience with God is established as Jesus lifts the third cup of the Passover meal, the cup symbolizing God's redemption from His wrath. **What does Jesus instruct His disciples to do when taking the cup of wine?**
- c. Read Exodus 24:7-8. Jesus gives the traditional blessing "Praise be Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, who causes bread to come forth from the earth" and then instructs the disciples that when **they think of the bread they are to remember what? How does this present-tense participation in a past event provide a communion with Jesus important to Christians?**

### 3. Read Mark 14:32-52

- a. In the garden of Gethsemane on the lower slopes of the Mount of Olives, Jesus goes to spend time with God to prepare for His future trials. He asks Peter, James, and John to accompany Him. **Why do you think Jesus wants them close by? How do the disciples act as Jesus comes to them three times after asking them to keep “watch”, which means to “be spiritually alert” lest they fall into “temptation” to be unfaithful to God (v. 37)?** The “flesh” will fail them despite their willingness to obey God’s will. **How might prayer have changed the outcome in the disciple’s responses during Jesus’ arrest?**
- b. **Compare** Jesus’ state of mind when He says, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death” and “Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

### **PRAYER PLEASE**

Pray for the Lord to strengthen you in the areas of your life that you feel your spirit is willing, but your flesh is weak. Continue to pray for Easter preparation, to be bold in inviting people to the service, and for many to hear the Good News and respond by committing their life to Jesus.

### **KEY DEFINITIONS: PASSOVER VS. LORD’S SUPPER**

#### Passover

In the old age of Law

The great festival meal celebrating the birth of God’s people

Participants associated themselves with deliverance and the old covenant

Looks back to the Exodus and forward to that which brings God’s salvation

#### Lord’s Supper

In the new age of the Kingdom

The new celebratory meal of the birth of God’s people

Participants associate redemption and new covenant

Looks back to the cross, salvation, and forward to the final realization of God’s Kingdom

### **FINAL THOUGHT**

The second part of the Passover Hymn can resonate in a believer’s heart (Psalm 118:14-17):

*“The Lord is my strength and my song;*

*He has become my salvation.*

*Shouts of joy and victory*

*Resound in the tents of the righteous:*

*The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!*

*The Lord’s right hand is lifted high;*

*The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!*

*I will not die but live,*

*And will proclaim what the Lord has done.”*