

1. **Introduction:** In describing End Times, Jesus said *“in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be.”*
 - Since creation, there have been many times of great tribulation (think of the Flood), but tribulation in End Times will be such as has not been seen from the beginning till then.
 - For the sake of the elect, God will shorten the time of tribulation.
 - Following the distress of tribulation, there will be a great cosmic upheaval disturbing the universe and shaking the powers in heaven. Darkness and chaos will be everywhere.
 - Then will the Son of Man come in clouds with great power and glory, bringing justice, condemning evil, ending suffering, and gathering His people to Himself.
 - Jesus said that His Words are eternal, outliving the old earth and heavens. ***“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”***
 - Jesus said, no one knows or can know specifically when End Times will come. Therefore, continually be on guard, staying alert and watching.
2. **Mark 13:33-37:** ***“Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵ Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning - ³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”***
 - Live faithfully in the here and now. Be attentive to signs. Be patient. Trust God. Interestingly, the Jews divided the night into 3 watches, but Mark, like the Romans includes four night-watches.
 - There will be many false predictions of a specific time that Christ is coming again. False prophets will raise false hope, pointing to signs and bringing anxiety and fear to people.
 - It has now been many years since Jesus said He will come again in power and glory. That truth is troublesome to many people.
 - That Christ has not yet come again causes some believers to fall into doubt and complacency, and non-believers to laugh at believers who expect Jesus to return at a time decreed by God.
 - Being alert and on guard is not easy. The disciples who, on Tuesday night heard Jesus’ admonition to always watch and be alert, failed on Thursday night.
 - On that night in Gethsemane, Jesus reprimanded the disciples 5 times for failing to watch. Hearing is much easier than obeying.
 - The last verse of the Olivet discourse is ***“And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”*** The NIV, NKJV, and other translations say, ***“And what I say to you I say to all: Watch.”***
 - To everyone ***“watch”!*** That is the admonition of the Spirit to all believers.

- The timing of the End is unknown, but it is known that the End will come suddenly. Live in faithful readiness.
 - This completes Mark chapter 13.
3. **Introduction to Mark 13 and 15:** These two chapters concern Jesus' betrayal, arrest, trial, and crucifixion. This sequence is commonly known as the "passion," a word derived from the Latin word for "suffering."
- Mark's particular technique of interleaving of topics using the "sandwich" technique appears 3 times in chapter 14 and once in chapter 15.
4. **Summary of Chapter 14 (72 Verses):** Jesus and His disciples eat the Passover meal together. Jesus is betrayed by one of the twelve. Jesus prays in Gethsemane. Jesus is arrested. His followers abandon Him. Peter denies Jesus.
- Jesus and His disciples spent a lot of time in the Temple as Jesus taught and interacted with people including debating with religious leaders.
 - When the time came, Jesus and the disciples shared the Passover meal.
 - Afterwards, events led to abandonment of Jesus, leaving Him alone to face trial, arrest, being condemned, beaten, and crucified.
 - Opposition from the chief priests and other religious rulers had continued to grow and, at the last, would spread to the Roman rulers and the masses.
 - When Jesus' arrest had disaster apparent, the disciples fled. The defection began with Judas' participation in the plot to eliminate Jesus but extended step-by-step to the other disciples, even Peter.
 - Jesus predicted Peter would deny Him 3 times before the cock crows. The chapter ends with Peter's 3 denials. Hearing a cock crow, he realized that the denials had happened just as Jesus had predicted.
5. **Mark 14:1a:** *"It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.*
- **Background:** To keep track of the days, you must know the Jews considered each new day to begin at sundown and end at the next sundown. They used a lunar calendar.
 - The following is a summary of key events. Time durations in days were based on each fraction of a day being counted as a full day.
 - The date of Passover was determined by the new moon. Two days before the Passover meal that year was Tuesday after sundown (i.e., Wednesday night).
 - Tuesday sundown to Wednesday sundown was one day. Wednesday sundown to Thursday sundown was the second day. The Passover meal that was the Last Supper was on Friday night (i.e., after sundown on Thursday).
 - Sundown Wednesday to Thursday sundown was the day of preparation for Passover.
 - Friday night (which began at sundown on Thursday) was the night of the Passover meal that we call the Last Supper.

- Jesus was arrested on Friday night (after the Passover meal) and crucified on Friday (before sundown which would begin the sabbath).
 - He was placed in the grave before sundown on Friday. His resurrection was on Sunday morning.
 - He was in the grave for 3 days. The short time before sundown on Friday counts Friday as one day. Sundown Friday to sundown Saturday is day two. Sundown Saturday to early Sunday morning counts as the third day.
6. **Mark 14:1b-2:** *“And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, ² for they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people.”*
- The religious leaders wanted to arrest Jesus and kill Him stealthily. They feared there might be a riot if Jesus’ followers heard of their plans.
 - Grumbling had occurred because nothing was done when Herod Antipas killed John the Baptist. The best thing would be to make Jesus disappear without fanfare.
 - Mark uses his sandwich technique to introduce something that happened earlier in the week. One evening, when Jesus was in Bethany, a dinner was given in His honor.
7. **Mark 14:3:** *“And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head.”*
- Simon’s invitation to guests for a meal indicates he was a former leper, one declared clean by the Temple. No one would have eaten with a person who had active leprosy.
 - In the traditional manner of the ancient Near East, the guests reclined around a low table, facing the table with their feet angled away from the food. They propped on the left elbow with a cushion for support.
 - During the meal, a woman approached Jesus from behind carrying a vase.
 - The vase was of alabaster and contained spikenard, a costly perfumed oil. John mentions that the vase held about a *litra* (about 12 ounces).
 - She broke the vase, pouring oil over Jesus’ head and filling the room with a lovely scent. Who was the woman? This seems to be the same event recorded in John 12:1-8. If so, she is Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus.
 - Simon is often believed to have been Lazarus and Martha’s father.
 - The fragrance of spikenard is unique, and the presence of its aroma was an indication that the very best had been offered.
 - Like an essential oil, the fragrance of spikenard is long-lasting, clinging to cloth and flesh alike. The fragrance may have been noticeable during Jesus’ suffering and even when He was put into the grave.
8. **Mark 14:4-5:** *“There were some who said to themselves indignantly, “Why was the ointment wasted like that? ⁵ For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they scolded her.”*

- Some of the guests were shocked by the anointing, saying the oil was worth 300 denarii (a normal day's wages was 1 denarii).
 - They said the gift of oil to Jesus was extravagant, and the oil would have been better used by selling it and giving the proceeds to the poor.
9. **Mark 14:6-7:** *But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷ For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me."*
- Jesus defended the woman. People judge by appearances. Jesus judges by the motives of the heart. The woman's motive was good. Jesus said, she did *"a beautiful thing to me."*
 - The extravagance of the woman's gift shows that she understood Jesus' incommensurable worth. It is right to help the poor, but that opportunity is always before everyone.
10. **Mark 14:8-9:** *"She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. ⁹ And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."*
- Jesus had warned the disciples of His impending death. They seemed to not fully understand and had certainly not responded with concern and love as the woman did.
 - Jesus concludes with a saying that underlines the importance of the woman's recognition of His worth. He said, *"I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."*
 - The gospel is the good news about what Jesus accomplished through His life and death. Both gospel and the story of Jesus' life and death must be proclaimed throughout the world.
 - The woman's act of recognition of Jesus' value to the world cannot and will not be forgotten. She recognized that the mystery of the gospel would be revealed in Jesus' death.
11. **Mark 14:10-11:** *"Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹ And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him."*
- Judas' betrayal was premeditated. We can only guess that his motives. It could be that he hoped by having Jesus arrested, Jesus would come to His senses and actively pursue the role of freeing Israel from Rome.
 - No one knows. Scripture is silent on Judas' motives. Often the cause of evil is revealed by determining who benefited by the evil action. Judas did benefit financially, but that doesn't appear to be the whole story.
 - Judas went to the chief priests, not they to him. The chief priests were glad when they heard Judas was willing to betray Jesus. Judas did evil, but divine grace uses even human evil in its saving purpose.