

Chapter 14

¹Now the Passover and Festival of Unleavened Bread were two days away. The chief priests and scribes were looking for a way to seize Jesus by devious means so that they could kill him. ²For they were saying, "Not during the feast, otherwise the people might riot."

³While he was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, a woman came who had an alabaster vial of very expensive pure nard perfume. She broke the alabaster vial and poured it down over his head. ⁴But some were expressing their displeasure to one another. "Why was this perfume wasted? ⁵For this perfume could have been sold for more than 300 denarii and the money given to the poor." And they were scolding her.

⁶But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you and you can do good for them whenever you want to. But you do not always have me. ⁸She did what she could. She acted in advance to anoint my body for burial. ⁹Truly I say to you that wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken in memory of her."

¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹Now when they heard this they were glad and promised to give him silver. So, Judas sought an opportunity to betray him.

¹²On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread when the Passover lamb was slaughtered, Jesus' disciple said to him, "Where do you want us to go to make preparations for you to eat the Passover? ¹³So, he sent two of his disciples.

He said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴Wherever he enters, tell the master of the house that the teacher says, 'Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs that is furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

¹⁶ So, the disciples went out and entered the city and found everything just as Jesus had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷When it was evening, Jesus came with the Twelve. ¹⁸While they reclined and ate, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you that one of you will betray me - one who is eating with me."

¹⁹They became sorrowful, and one by one they said to him, "Surely it's not me?"

²⁰But he said to them, "One of the Twelve. One who is dipping with me in the dish. ²¹For the Son of Man departs just as it is written about him. But woe to that man through whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would have been good for that man to have never been born."

²²While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it he broke it and gave it to them. He said to them, "Take it. This is my body."

²³Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant that is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly I tell you that I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the Kingdom of God."

²⁶After singing a psalm, they departed to the Mount of Olives.

²⁷Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.' ²⁸But after I am raised, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

²⁹But Peter said to him, "Even if all others fall away, I will not."

³⁰Jesus replied to him, "Truly I tell you that today – this very night – before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."

³¹But Peter was declaring emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will never deny you." All the others were saying the same thing.

³²Then they came to a parcel of land called Gethsemane. [Gethsemane is Aramaic for "oil press".]

Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed." ³³And he took Peter, James and John along with him and he became greatly alarmed and distressed. ³⁴He said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Remain here and stay alert."

³⁵Then going on a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He was saying, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet, not what I want, but what you want."

³⁷Then he came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn't you stay alert for one hour? ³⁸Stay alert and pray, so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

³⁹Jesus went away again and prayed the same thing. ⁴⁰When he came back again he found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. They did not know how to answer him.

⁴¹Then he came a third time and asked them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is settled. The hour has come. See, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Get up. Let's go. Look, my betrayer is here."

⁴³While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. He was accompanied by a crowd armed with swords and clubs, who were sent from the chief priests, the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴(Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one whom I kiss

is the one. Seize him and lead him away under guard.”)

⁴⁵When Judas arrived, he went directly to Jesus and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁴⁶And they laid hands on him and seized him. ⁴⁷But one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁴⁸Jesus asked them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to seize me as you would a robber? ⁴⁹Every day I was in the Temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.”

⁵⁰Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. ⁵¹A certain young man was following Jesus. He wore only a linen garment over his naked body. They seized him, ⁵²but he fled naked, leaving the linen garment behind.

⁵³Then they led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests and elders and scribes assembled. ⁵⁴Meanwhile, Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. He was sitting with the attendants and warming himself by the fire.

⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they could not find any. ⁵⁶For many were falsely testifying against him, but their testimonies did not agree. ⁵⁷Some who appeared were falsely testifying saying, ⁵⁸“We heard him saying, ‘I will destroy this temple made by human hands and in three days I will build another not made by human hands.’” ⁵⁹But their testimony about this was inconsistent.

⁶⁰Then the high priest stood up in the middle of the council and demanded of Jesus, “Are you not going to answer the testimony of these men against you?” ⁶¹But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again, the high priest demanded and asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?”

⁶²Jesus replied, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

⁶³Then the high priest tore his garments apart and said, “Why do we need any more witnesses? ⁶⁴You heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

And all condemned him worthy of death.

⁶⁵Then some began to spit on him. They covered his face and beat him while saying, “Prophecy!” and the attendants took him and slapped him.

⁶⁶While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the female servants of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷Taking notice of Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him and said, “You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus.”

⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, “I don’t know what you are talking about.” Then he went out into the entryway and a rooster crowed.

⁶⁹When the female servant saw him she said again to those standing around, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰But again he denied it.

A short time later those standing around were again saying to Peter, "You certainly are one of them, for you are a Galilean."

⁷¹But he began to invoke a curse and swore to them, "I do not know this man you are talking about.

⁷²Immediately a rooster crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him. "Before a rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." Peter broke down and wept.