

# Ways To Respond To Jesus

“Case For Christ”, part 45, Insights from Mark 14:1-11  
Pastor Bob Johnson, January 15th, 2023, GPC

## Four Ways To See & Respond to Jesus:

- To the Religious Leaders ...

He was a L \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_

(Mark 14:1-2; 3:1-6; 7:1-5, Matthew 23:5-7)

- To Mary ...

He was a L \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_

(Mark 14:3-5; Rev. 4:11, Psalm 29:1-2, 2 Samuel 24:24)

- To the Disciples ...

He was a L \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_

(Mark 14:4-5; 1:17; 8:31-32; 9:30-34; 10:32-37)

- To Judas ...

He was a L \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_

(Mark 14:10-11, Matthew 26:14-16)

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## **This Week's Discussion Guide**

Welcome to our first week of our 11 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ". Our last week in this small group season will be the week of Sunday March 26 which is the week before Palm Sunday.

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

### **Getting Started:**

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

As we start out a new year, what is a habit or goal or accomplishment that you would like to work toward this year? What is one thing that will help you do what you hope to accomplish?

In Mark 14, one of the ways Jesus was described as was a 'loose cannon'.  
Speaking of weapons :) ... what is the largest weapon if any, that you have held or used?

Is there a weapon that you have never touched or used that you would like to try?

In Mark 14, Mary chose to pour some expensive ointment or perfume on Jesus' head.  
Speaking of gifts, what is a gift that you enjoyed giving or receiving this past Christmas?

As shared on Sunday, Mary saw Jesus as her Lord to be worshipped.  
Can you think of ways that your understanding of what it means to worship God (and how you worship Him) has changed over the course of your spiritual journey?

In last Sunday's message, four different perspectives of Jesus were described. If you were to come up with a different perspective for who people think He is today, what would that be?

### **Reviewing and Reflecting on last Sunday's Passage:**

Let's read the main passage from last Sunday. (Mark 14:1-11)

After reading this passage and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

## Digging Deeper:

1. Last Sunday we heard about Mary's extravagant worship of Jesus. Worship can be defined as giving value or worth to something. In 1 Chronicles 16:7-36, King David gives instructions to the worship leaders of Israel for leading the people in worship.

Let's read this passage and share some insights we see about the 'how and why' of worship. What stands out to you the most about worship from this passage? What parts of the description of worship do you relate to the most? The least? How does this passage help clarify, confirm or challenge how you view worship?

2. Regarding worship, Jesus encouraged us to worship 'in spirit and in truth' (John 4:24). Part of worshipping 'in truth' is responding to the truth as we follow God's promptings. While we are called to follow the various commands found in the Bible, how we follow or obey could look very different because each of us has a unique relationship with God.

In each of the passages below, let's identify the Biblical command we are all supposed to follow, and then share two or three ways people could apply it differently in real life.

Colossians 4:2, Romans 12:2, Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Proverbs 31:8-9

What are some factors that influence why people apply Biblical principles and commands in different ways?

3. Christ followers connect with God differently and God designed it that way :). Below are some examples of various paths of connection with God. Let's all read the statements to ourselves and share that one or two that seems to fit us best.

- I connect with God best outside in the middle of creation. Everything He made points me to Him.
- I connect with God creatively. I appreciate a worship experience that involves all of my senses.
- I connect with God by engaging my mind, studying and being stretched intellectually.
- I connect with God best in a more traditional setting. I love the rich meaning behind religious ceremony, symbols and unchanging structures.
- I connect with God best by working hard to make the world a better place.  
Connection and service go hand in
- I connect with God best while I am caring for others and meeting needs.
- I connect with God best in quiet moments where I can ponder things in my heart and just be still.
- I connect with God best when I celebrate what He has done in song, privately or publicly.

In light of your preferred pathways, can you think of any ways to incorporate them more into your life in 2023?

If you were to try one of the pathways that you didn't check, which one would you choose? Why?

## Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days? Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for?

Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?