

The Watford Word

06 March 2022

What's on

Sunday 13th March - Mark 14:12-31

Sunday 20 March - Mk 14:32-42, Stefan speaking

Sunday 27th March - Mark 14:43-72

Sunday 3rd April - Mark 15:1-20

Sunday 10th April - Mark 15:21-47

Sunday 17th April - Easter Sunday - Mark 16

Advance notices:

1-3 April - Father & Son camp



Wellington Country Park

The Thames Valley church's annual outdoor service at Wellington Country Park is on Sunday 3rd July.



Preteen camp

Preteen Camp "INSIDE OUT" is now online for bookings!

"Our society is obsessed with physical appearance. It comes at us from virtually every angle: television, movies, music, magazines, books, and billboards which all display attractive people. The goal of camp is to help our preteens understand that superficial elements fade, but what's on the inside is what counts. They will learn how to look good from the inside. God doesn't focus on their outward appearance. It is what's on the inside that matters to Him. They will experience Christ-centred activities through Bible lessons, fun activities, games, daily devotionals, and worship services."

Preteen Camp is for children aged between 10 and 12 years old. During the day the children are in small mixed groups headed up by adult volunteers. Life-time friendships are begun.

For more information and to book:

www.iccmembers.org, on MyChurchSuite

(ICCM members) or by using this link:

<https://iccmembers.churchsuite.com/events/gimyoet>.

Conference

A UK & Ireland conference will be held 10-12 September. I understand it will also be the occasion to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the London congregation.

UKRAINE

Here is the link for donations to the

Ukrainian crisis appeal: [http://](http://www.hopeworldwide.org.uk/give)

www.hopeworldwide.org.uk/give - choose

"International General Fund" from the drop-down options.

A.I.M. UK & Ireland

Registration is open for the AIM UK & Ireland teaching program. Go to <https://aimukandireland.com/> for details.

ATHENS INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY
UK & IRELAND

Malcolm Cox Dr. Andrew Boakye Dr. Douglas Jacoby

We teach ANYONE who is keen to have a deeper understanding of the Bible and how to apply that knowledge to everyday life, both inside and outside a conventional church setting.

Our programme is global, and can be taken from the comfort of your home, with the option of attending one in-person session per course.

Want to know more and how you can enrol today? Scan the QR code below for more info!

www.aimukandireland.com

Destination Easter

The Sunday sermons between now and the 17th of April will follow the events of what is called the 'Passion' week. We will be following Jesus in the run-up to the cross. The gospel of Mark, and our sermons, will slow down. Today we focus on Mark 14 verses 1-11. Here are some additional notes and thoughts.



The plant, *Nardostachys jatamansi*, from which nard comes.

Nard

It is the root of an Indian plant, the *Nardostachys jatamansi*, of the family of Valerianaceae, growing on the Himalaya mountains. It is distinguished by its having many hairy spikes shooting out from one root. It is called by the Arabs sunbul Hindi, "the Indian spike." From Easton's Bible Dictionary

Alabaster Jar

"These were made from a stone found near Alabastron in Egypt, and from this circumstance the Greeks gave them the name of the city where they were made. The name was then given to the stone of which they were made; and finally to all perfume vessels, of whatever material they were formed. The woman "broke" the vessel; i.e., she broke off, as was usually done, the long and narrow neck so as to reach the contents. This stone resembles marble, but is softer in its texture, and hence very easily wrought into boxes." From Easton's Bible Dictionary

Contrasts and Parallels

We see a number of parallels and contrasts in this passage. For example, beauty is in the heart of the woman, ugliness is in the heart of Judas and the religious leaders. The financial generosity of

the woman is contrasted with the financial greed of Judas. The woman's treasure, freely offered to Jesus at the end of his life, parallels the generosity of the Magi at the beginning of his life. The wholehearted 'discipleship' of the woman is contrasted with that of Judas who has determined his own terms for continued discipleship. The Passover celebrates God giving freedom to his people, but the religious leaders want to restrict the freedom God wishes to give humankind. The feast of unleavened bread was a time to celebrate God giving his people a fresh start. Jesus wants to give the whole world a fresh start, but the religious leaders want to control and restrict him. They are not removing the leaven, but the bread of heaven. The men - prominent and leading in that culture - get it wrong. The woman - invisible and submissive in that culture - gets it right.

Which of these parallels and contrasts is most meaningful to you, and why?

Questions for reflection

1. Jesus says she did 'a beautiful thing'. What might a beautiful act for Jesus look like for you?
2. This event revealed motives and motivations - those of Jesus, the religious leaders, Judas and the woman. What is happening in your life at the moment that is revealing your own motives? What are you learning from that?
3. This passage teaches us a great deal about devotion and discipleship. What stands out in this area for you? How will today's lesson deepen your devotion and discipleship?

Watford Media

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj9Qa8D9zumJZdoAtARDUww>

Podcast: <https://www.podbean.com/pu/pbblog-aiinq-iaef9o>

Website: <https://watfordchurchofchrist.org>