Notes on the Greek New Testament Day 67 – March 8th – Mark 14:1-21

Works frequently referenced in these notes on Mark

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Mark 14:1-2

Cf. Mt 26:1-5; Lk 22:1-2. "The time for talking is over, and it is time for the events to unfold which Jesus has insistently predicted since Caesarea Philippi, and which will set in train the scenario so vividly sketched in chapter 13." France.

Verse 1

Ήν δὲ τὸ πάσχα καὶ τὰ ἄζυμα μετὰ δύο ἡμέρας. καὶ ἐζήτουν οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς καὶ οἱ γραμματεῖς πῶς αὐτὸν ἐν δόλῷ κρατήσαντες ἀποκτείνωσιν,

πασχα n Passover

ἀζυμος, ον without yeast; unleavened; τα ἀζυμα Jewish Feast of Unleavened Bread

"The Passover (τὸ πάσγα) refers to the events of a roughly twelve-hour period which spanned two Jewish days – the Jewish day began at sunset, not at midnight as we (and the Romans) reckon. On Nisan 14, during the afternoon, the lambs for the Passover meal were slaughtered in the temple. After sunset (and therefore on the next Jewish day, Nisan 15) the Passover meal was held. The Passover proper therefore spanned Nisan 14 and 15. The festival of unleavened bread (τὰ ἄζυμα), originally a separate festival, followed on directly from the Passover and lasted seven days, Nisan 15-21 (Nu 28:15-16). In practice the two festivals were treated together as a single period of celebration; either τὸ πάσχα or τὰ ἄζυμα could be used for the whole eightday period, but the use of the two together here is more precise." France.

ζητεω seek, search for, look for

The imperfect indicates "a purpose entertained for some time." Taylor.

ἀρχιερευς, εως m high priest, member of high priestly family

γραμματευς, εως m scribe, expert in Jewish law, scholar δολος, ου m deceit κρατήσαντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl κρατεω hold, seize ἀποκτεινω and ἀποκτεννω, -ννυω kill, put to death

Verse 2

ἔλεγον γάρ· Μὴ ἐν τῆ ἑορτῆ, μήποτε ἔσται θόρυβος τοῦ λαοῦ.

ἑορτη, ης f festival, feast

έν τη ἑορτη here probably "in the presence of the festival crowd" rather than "during the festival" – so Jeremias – cf. Lk 22:6.

μηποτε conj. lest, otherwise ἔσται Verb, fut indic, 2 s εἰμι θορυβος, ου m disturbance, riot λαος, ου m people

Verses 3-9

Cf. Mt 26:6-13; Jn 12:1-8 and also Lk 7:36-50. Cranfield says that "The narrative in Jn 12:1-8 is parallel to this and, though the two accounts are not easily harmonised, probably refers to the same incident... Lk 7:36ff records a different incident." For more detailed argument concerning the relationship between the various Gospel accounts, see John Wenham, *Easter Enigma*, pp. 22,23. In particular, Wenham argues:

- There were two anointings. The incident related by Luke is different from that recorded in the other Gospels.
- ii) The same woman performed both anointings.
- iii) The second anointing can be explained as a re-enactment and completion of the first.

France, having listed the similarities and differences between the various gospel accounts, similarly concludes, "This complex pattern of relationships probably indicates a separate tradition in Luke, perhaps of a different incident, though there is likely to have been some assimilation of the different stories in transmission."

Of Mark's account of this incident. France writes, "The woman's καλὸν ἔργον provides a telling contrast with the limited outlook of the other guests in Simon's house. Their concern for the routine responsibility of providing for the poor, worthy as it is in itself, betrays a lack of an appropriate sense of occasion. This is Jesus' hour, the time when his predictions about his own destiny are coming to fulfilment, and his ministry is reaching its tragic yet essential climax. The poor can wait; something more vital is taking place, and the woman has proved more sensitive to it than even Jesus' closest companions. And that is why, when the story of these pivotal days comes to be told, she will have an honoured place in it. Anonymous as she is, she will be part of the good news which will soon be spread around the world, and her καλὸν ἔργον, even if not her name, will be remembered."

Verse 3

Καὶ ὄντος αὐτοῦ ἐν Βηθανία ἐν τῆ οἰκία Σίμωνος τοῦ λεπροῦ κατακειμένου αὐτοῦ ἦλθεν γυνὴ ἔχουσα ἀλάβαστρον μύρου νάρδου πιστικῆς πολυτελοῦς· συντρίψασα ^ττὴν ἀλάβαστρον κατέχεεν αὐτοῦ τῆς κεφαλῆς.

"The host, Simon, is otherwise unknown, presumably a local supporter of Jesus like Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. The fact that he could host a meal in his house indicates that his title, \dot{o} $\lambda \epsilon \pi \rho \dot{o} \varsigma$ did not literally denote his present condition. He may have been a former leper, now cured (by Jesus?), or he may have acquired his nickname by some other association which we cannot now know; the name Simon was so common a name that some distinguishing title was needed." France.

κατακειμαι recline at table, dine ἀλαβαστρον, ου n alabaster jar μυρον, ου n ointment, perfume, oil ναρδος, ου f oil of nard (an aromatic plant)

"νάρδος specifies that this is the highly prized perfume made from spikenard, whose oil was imported from India and therefore expensive." France.

πιστικος, η, ον perhaps pure, genuine

"Variously explained: e.g. as = π ιστης (= 'genuine') or π ιστης (= 'liquid'), or as a scribal corruption of σπικατου (the name of an unguent: cf. vg *nardi spicati*); more probably, as a transliteration of Aramaic *pistaka* which denotes the ben or pistachio nut (cf. π ιστακιου), the oil of which was used as a base for perfumes." Cranfield.

πολυτελοῦς Adjective, gen s πολυτελης, ες expensive, costly; of great value συντρίψασα Verb, aor act ptc, f nom s συντριβω break in pieces, shatter

"Gundry ..., following Cranfield, believes ... that by breaking the flask she 'makes it henceforth unusable', thus demonstrating the completeness of the sacrifice, but this is perhaps too cerebral an account of a rash and instinctive action. It was a dramatic and impulsive gesture rather than a planned visual aid." France.

κατέχεεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s καταχεω pour out

κεφαλη, ης f head

Cf. Ex 29:7; 1 Sam 10:1; 2 Kings 9:3,6; Ps 133:2.

"It is not likely that the woman thought of herself as anointing the Messiah, but Mark doubtless intended his readers to recognise the messianic significance of his action – though another significance of it is indicated by Jesus in v.8. He who had been anointed by the Spirit at his baptism is now fittingly anointed with oil." Cranfield.

Verse 4

ἦσαν δέ τινες ἀγανακτοῦντες πρὸς ἑαυτούς· Εἰς τί ἡ ἀπώλεια αὕτη τοῦ μύρου γέγονεν;

ἀγανακτεω be indignant, be angry

"The phrase ἀγανακτοῦντες πρὸς ἑαυτούς suggests not so much silent (internalised) indignation as the expression of that indignation to one another within the group; cf. the other uses of πρὸς ἑαυτούς for shared emotions or deliberative consultations in 1:27; 10:26; 11:31; 12:7; 16:3." France.

Cf. Mt who makes it clear that those angered by this event included the disciples.

έαυτος, έαυτη, έαυτον him/her/itself

The addition of και λεγοντες before or after προς έαυτους appears to be a scribal 'improvement'.

ἀπωλεια, ας f destruction, waste γέγονεν Verb, perf act indic, 3s γινομαι

Verse 5

ήδύνατο γὰρ τοῦτο τὸ μύρον πραθῆναι ἐπάνω δηναρίων τριακοσίων καὶ δοθῆναι τοῖς πτωχοῖς· καὶ ἐνεβριμῶντο αὐτῆ.

ήδύνατο Verb, imperf midd/pass indic, 3 s δυναμαι can

πραθῆναι Verb, aor pass infin πιπρασκω sell

ἐπανω prep and adv. over, more than

Cranfield considers ἐπανω here an adverb and δηναρων τριακοσιων a genitive of price. "The omission of ἐπάνω in a few texts assimilates to the specific figure given in Jn 12:5; it may also be due to dislike of Mark's idiom (BDF, 185[4], describe ἐπάνω as 'a vulgar substitute for πλείων')." France.

δηναριον, ου n denarius τριακοσιοι, αι, α three hundred δοθῆναι Verb, aor pass infin διδωμι πτωχος, η, ον poor, pitiful ἐμβριμαομαι speak harshly to; criticize harshly

"The dative following ἐνεβριμῶντο indicates (as in 1:43) that there hostility was openly directed against the woman." France.

Verse 6

ό δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν· Ἄφετε αὐτήν· τί αὐτῆ κόπους παρέχετε; καλὸν ἔργον ἠργάσατο ἐν ἐμοί·

ἀφιημι leave

Here, 'leave her alone', 'don't give her a hard time'.

κοπος, ου m labour, trouble παρεχω act & midd cause, bring about

For this idiom, cf. Lk 11:7; 18:5; Gal 6:17.

καλος, η, ov good, right, beautiful ἠργάσατο Verb, aor midd dep indic, 3 s ἐργαζομαι work, do, perform

Verse 7

πάντοτε γὰρ τοὺς πτωχοὺς ἔχετε μεθ' ἑαυτῶν, καὶ ὅταν θέλητε δύνασθε αὐτοῖς εὖ ποιῆσαι, ἐμὲ δὲ οὐ πάντοτε ἔχετε·

παντοτε always όταν when, whenever θελω wish, will εὐ adv well ποιῆσαι Verb, aor act infin ποιεω ἐμὲ Pronoun, acc s ἐγω

Cranfield says that this verse provides important evidence against the view of some "that Jesus did not envisage any significant interval between his death and his Parousia; for it implied that there will be a time during which the disciples will be in a position to do good to the poor, but not to Jesus."

France comments, "The concern for the poor expressed in Dt 15:1-11 (which includes the recognition, echoed here by Jesus, that 'the poor will never cease out of the land') had become the basis of an extensive and carefully regulated system of donation to poor relief, which included the mandatory 'tithe for the poor' as well as numerous opportunities for personal charity. The point is not that you may neglect the needs of the poor, but that they can be catered for at any time: the opportunity will not go away."

Verse 8

δ ἔσχεν ἐποίησεν, προέλαβεν μυρίσαι τὸ σῷμά μου εἰς τὸν ἐνταφιασμόν.

ἔσχεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s έχω

"ὂ ἔσχεν ἐποίησεν is a compressed expression, with ἔχω used probably in the sense of 'be able'... The use of ἔχω rather than δύναμαι may be due to the thought of the perfume which the woman already possessed, and therefore was now able to put to this special use." France.

προέλαβεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s προλαμβανω do (something) ahead of time

μυριζω pour perfume on σωμα, τος n body ἐνταφιασμος, ου m preparation for burial,

"The phrase indicates not her conscious intention, but the purpose which her action will actually serve." Cranfield.

Verse 9

ἀμὴν δὲ λέγω ὑμῖν, ὅπου ἐὰν κηρυχθῆ τὸ εὐαγγέλιον εἰς ὅλον τὸν κόσμον, καὶ ὃ ἐποίησεν αὕτη λαληθήσεται εἰς μνημόσυνον αὐτῆς.

όπου adv. where; όπου ἀν οι όπου ἐαν wherever, whenever κηρυχθῆ Verb, aor pass subj, 3 s κηρυσσω preach, proclaim

"As in 13:10, the εὐαγγέλιον, which earlier in the gospel denoted the message preached by Jesus, has now become a message *about* Jesus, and here includes specifically the narrative of his last days... Mark wants us to have no doubt that Jesus knows where he is going, and already views his approaching passion in the framework of God's redemptive purpose, the εὐαγγέλιον." France.

όλος, η, ον whole, all, entire κοσμος, ου m world λαληθήσεται Verb, fut pass indic, 3 s λαλεω speak, talk μνημοσυνον memorial

Verses 10-11

Mt 26:14-16; Lk 22:3-6. France comments, "Why did the priests need Judas? After several days of public exposure in the temple area there could hardly have been any problem in identifying Jesus even in a crowd (though apparently the men sent to arrest Jesus in the garden at night did need such identification, v. 44). A more likely reason has been indicated in vv. 1-2: in order to avoid popular resistance they needed to secure Jesus in a less public location than the temple area, and for that they needed someone who could inform them of his movements, in particular of where he might be found at night. Only a member of the group who lived with Jesus could provide such information, hence the delight of the priests at Judas' offer. It is as a guide to the arresting party that he will reappear in 14:43-44. "When Jesus is brought to trial in 14:53-65, we shall find the High Priest well informed about the supposed claims of Jesus (14:61). According to Mark's record Jesus has not publicly claimed to be the Messiah (indeed, he has specifically prohibited public use of such language, 8:30), though his actions have at several points implied such a claim; and his one public statement implying that he is the Son of God takes the veiled form of a character in a parable (12:6-8). It is within the disciple group that such language has been more openly used, and another part of Judas' service to the priests may have been to fill out a dossier of Jesus' words and actions which could be used against him at his trial, to prove that the incautious words of his followers (11:9-10) had not been unfounded."

Verse 10

Καὶ Ἰούδας Ἰσκαριὼθ ὁ εἶς τῶν δώδεκα ἀπῆλθεν πρὸς τοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς ἵνα αὐτὸν παραδοῖ αὐτοῖς.

είς, μια, έν gen ένος, μιας, ένος one δωδεκα twelve παραδοῖ Verb, aor act subj, 3 s παραδιδωμι hand, deliver up

Verse 11

οί δὲ ἀκούσαντες ἐχάρησαν καὶ ἐπηγγείλαντο αὐτῷ ἀργύριον δοῦναι. καὶ ἐζήτει πῶς αὐτὸν εὐκαίρως παραδοῖ.

χαιρω rejoice, be glad ἐπηγγείλαντο Verb, aor midd/pass dep indic, 3 pl ἐπαγγελλομαι promise ἀργυριον, ου n silver coin, money δοῦναι verb, aor act infin διδωμι ζητεω seek, search for, look for πως how(?) εὐκαιρως when the time is right

Verses 12-16

Cf. Mt 26:17-19; Lk 22:7-13.

Verse 12

Καὶ τῆ πρώτη ἡμέρα τῶν ἀζύμων, ὅτε τὸ πάσχα ἔθυον, λέγουσιν αὐτῷ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ· Ποῦ θέλεις ἀπελθόντες ἐτοιμάσωμεν ἵνα φάγης τὸ πάσχα;

πρωτος, η, ον first ἀζυμος, ον see v.1 ότε conj when, at which time πασχα n Passover, Passover meal, Passover lamb θυω slaughter, sacrifice, kill ποῦ interrogative adverb where θελω wish, will ἀπελθόντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl ἀπερχομαι έτοιμάσωμεν Verb, aor act subj, 1 pl έτοιμαζω prepare, make ready φάγης Verb, aor act subj, 2 s ἐσθιω eat

A problem arises over dates since τη πρωτη των ἀζυμων properly denotes Nisan 15th and ότε το πασχα ἐθυον clearly denotes 14th. Cranfield argues that it is best to understand the first phrase as ambiguous, "its meaning being more exactly defined by the second." He thinks that the imperfect ἐθυον means "it was customary to kill'; the phrase need not imply that the killing had already begun when the disciples spoke." He concludes, "This verse clearly implies that the Last Supper was a Passover meal and that the day (reckoned from sundown to sundown) on which Jesus was arrested, condemned and crucified was Nisan 15th."

Cranfield draws attention to the problem raised by the suggestion in Jn 18:28 that Jesus died at the time that the lambs were being killed. He considers unsatisfactory the suggestion that some Jews were eating the Passover meal on the Thursday evening rather than the Friday. France, however, believes that there is evidence outside the gospel accounts that favours the 'Johannine' dating. He writes, "Astronomical evidence strongly suggests that whereas Nisan 14 probably fell on a Friday (as the Johannine chronology requires) in AD 30 and 33, there was no date between 27 and 34 when Nisan 15 was a Friday." He concludes, "It therefore seems most likely that Jesus deliberately anticipated the official date in his anxiety to hold a Passover with his disciples while it was still possible (cf. Lk 22:15), aware that by the official date he would not be there to do so." Concerning Mark's account he writes, "When Mk 14:12, which is the key text for the supposed 'synoptic chronology', sets the time of preparation for the supper on the 'day' when the lambs were sacrificed, this would, on the normal Jewish method of reckoning days, only be on the evening following the sacrifice if the preparations were made before sunset. If, however, the meal was prepared (as it was certainly eaten) after sunset, it would be on the same 'day' as the sacrifice if it took place on the *previous* evening. On that understanding, Mark's careful note of the time in fact places the last supper, as John does, on the evening which began Nisan 14, not on that which followed it. In other words, he was as clearly aware as John was that Jesus held his Passover meal not on the official day, but deliberately one day early."

Verse 13

καὶ ἀποστέλλει δύο τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Ὑπάγετε εἰς τὴν πόλιν, καὶ ἀπαντήσει ὑμῖν ἄνθρωπος κεράμιον ὕδατος βαστάζων· ἀκολουθήσατε αὐτῷ,

άποστελλω send, send out δυο gen & acc δυο dat δυσιν two ύπαγω go, go one's way πολις, εως f city, town άπανταω meet κεραμιον, ου n jar (made of clay) ύδωρ, ύδατος n water βασταζω carry, bear άκολουθεω follow, accompany

"More probably a pre-arranged sign than an instance of supernatural foresight. A man carrying a pitcher would be conspicuous, since normally only women carried water in pitchers: a man would carry it in a wineskin." Cranfield.

Verse 14

καὶ ὅπου ἐὰν εἰσέλθη εἴπατε τῷ οἰκοδεσπότη ὅτι Ὁ διδάσκαλος λέγει· Ποῦ ἐστιν τὸ κατάλυμά μου ὅπου τὸ πάσχα μετὰ τῶν μαθητῶν μου φάγω;

όπου adv. where; όπου ἀν οι όπου ἐαν wherever εἰσερχομαι enter, go in εἴπατε Verb, aor act imperat, 2 pl λεγω οἰκοδεσποτης, ου m householder διδασκαλος, ου m teacher ποῦ interrogative adverb where

καταλυμα, τος n room, guest room

'my guest room' suggests 'the one I have booked.' France adds, "Indeed, it is not very likely, given the pressure of space in Jerusalem at Passover time, that a suitable room could have been made available without prior arrangement."

φάγω Verb, aor act indic/subj, 1 s ἐσθιω

Verse 15

καὶ αὐτὸς ὑμῖν δείξει ἀνάγαιον μέγα ἐστρωμένον ἔτοιμον· καὶ ἐκεῖ ἑτοιμάσατε ἡμῖν.

δείξει Verb, fut act indic, 3 s δεικνυμι show άναγαιον, ου n upstairs room μεγας, μεγαλη, μεγα large

"The further description of the room as an $\dot{\alpha}v\dot{\alpha}\gamma\alpha$ 10v $\mu\dot{\epsilon}\gamma\alpha$ a 'large upstairs room' indicates a relatively wealthy household rather than a single-story peasant house, but any attempt to guess its location from Mark's text is futile." France.

ἐστρωμένον Verb, perf pass ptc, m acc & n nom/acc s στρωννυμι and στρωννυω spread; ἀναγαιον ἐστρωμενον furnished upstairs room

Cranfield thinks it refers to the "accomodation for reclining at a meal."

έτοιμος, η, ον ready, prepared έκει there, in that place έτοιμαζω prepare, make ready

Verse 16

καὶ ἐξῆλθον οἱ μαθηταὶ καὶ ἦλθον εἰς τὴν πόλιν καὶ εὖρον καθὼς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, καὶ ἡτοίμασαν τὸ πάσχα.

ἦλθον Verb, aor act ind, 1s & 3 pl ἐρχομαι εὖρον Verb, aor act indic, 1 s & 3 pl εὑρισκω καθως as, just as ἑτοιμαζω prepare, make ready

Verses 17-21

Cf. Mt 26:20-25; Lk 22:14, 21-23.

Verse 17

Καὶ ὀψίας γενομένης ἔρχεται μετὰ τῶν δώδεκα.

όψια, ας f evening

"The Passover meal would begin at sunset, when the new Jewish day (Nisan 15th) had begun." Cranfield. In France's view, Nisan 14th (cf. note against v. 12).

Verse 18

καὶ ἀνακειμένων αὐτῶν καὶ ἐσθιόντων ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν· Ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἶς ἐξ ὑμῶν παραδώσει με ὁ ἐσθίων μετ' ἐμοῦ.

ἀνακειμαι be seated at table ἐσθιω and ἐσθω eat, consume

The Άμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν emphasises the enormity of the idea.

είς, μια, έν gen ένος, μιας, ένος one παραδωσει Verb, fut act indic, 3 s παραδιδωμι hand over, deliver up

On the final phrase, cf. Ps 41:9; Jn 13:18.

Verse 19

ἥρξαντο λυπεῖσθαι καὶ λέγειν αὐτῷ εἶς κατὰ εἶς· Μήτι ἐγώ;

ἥρξαντο Verb, aor midd indic, 3 pl ἀρχω midd begin λυπεω pain, grieve; pass be sad, sorrowful, grieve είς κατα είς one by one μητι Negative particle, used in questions expectating a negative answer

Verse 20

ό δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Εἶς τῶν δώδεκα, ὁ ἐμβαπτόμενος μετ' ἐμοῦ εἰς τὸ τρύβλιον·

έμβαπτω dip τρυβλιον, ου n dish, bowl

"The τρυβλιον is probably the dish containing the sauce (*haroset*) of dried fruits, spices and wine or vinegar, in which the bitter herbs were dipped at the Passover meal." Cranfield. "Christ, by his reply, neither removes their doubt, nor points out the person of Judas, but only confirms what he said a little before." Calvin.

Verse 21

ότι ό μὲν υἰὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ὑπάγει καθὼς γέγραπται περὶ αὐτοῦ, οὐαὶ δὲ τῷ ἀνθρώπῳ ἐκείνῳ δι' οὖ ὁ υἰὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδίδοται· καλὸν αὐτῷ εἰ οὐκ ἐγεννήθη ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἐκεῖνος.

ύπαγω go, go one's way, depart γέγραπται Verb, perf pass indic, 3 s γραφω write

Cf. 8:31; 9:12.

οὐαι interj. woe! how horrible it will be! ἐκεινος, η, ο demonstrative adj. that (one)

δι ού "suggests the truth that the delivering up of Jesus is not simply an act of Judas, but part of a bigger purpose than his – he is in fact being used for the fulfilment of God's purpose. Nevertheless, it is his act, and he is responsible – hence the οὐαι and v 21c. The fact that God turns the wrath of man to his praise does not excuse the wrath of man." Cranfield.

καλος, η, ον good, right, proper έγεννήθη Verb, aor pass indic, 3s γενναω be father of, bear; pass be born