

59. Mk 14:1-11 An Aroma of Christ (GCC—1/26/25)

Introduction

Can you say, Coca cola, without touching your lips together?—Please, try.

- Let's do that again, this time looking at one another.
 - Please report—did their lips touch?
 - No, because, when we say Coca cola, we don't actually touch our lips.
- But, my suggesting that you say it without touching your lips, made you think, that's what happens when it doesn't, right?
 - Many times in our lives, we do this, thinking that something's wrong, when it isn't.

The backdrop

Through our passage today, I pray that we will be swept away by Jesus' aroma.

- But, before we see the beauty of Jesus, I want us to first notice, the backdrop to the beauty of Jesus, is very dark and evil.
 - To notice the backdrop is important because we know, our lives, our world, can also be very dark and evil.
 - And living in such world, it is so easy to get swept away into their evil ways, which is why, seeing who and how Jesus acts, will become the reason for our hope and strength in our lives.

So, allow me to briefly describe the backdrop before we behold Jesus' beauty.

- **Mk 14:1**—“Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away...”
 - Let's stop there first—only two days away, from what?
- This was a time of the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread, which means, God wants His people to remember, what God did for them in Egypt.
 - In Egypt, God passed over every house of His people; however, He sent the destroying angel to enter every Egyptian family and kill all their firstborn sons.
 - Thus, these festivals were meant to help them to recollect God's most gracious act for them— so, remembering God's grace, did it help the people to think about how to bless one another?
- Sadly, our passage describes a very different mood, doesn't it?
 - **Mk 14:1, 4-5**—“Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill Him.... Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, ‘Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor.’ And they rebuked her harshly.”

- I underlined the words that describe their mood—scheming, arrest, secretly, kill Him, indignantly, waste, rebuke, harshly.
- Why were these people uttering such strong and disapproving thoughts and words?
 - Did you know, their disapproval was actually about something really beautiful?
 - Their harsh rebuke of the woman was actually about her beautiful and loving deed to prepare for Jesus' coming burial.
- Brothers and sisters, can I warn all of us?—please be careful, when we dislike someone or something, many of us can actually do and say some ugly things, even when it is beautiful in God's sight.
 - Imagine, our displeasure for what is beautiful in God's sight.
 - How terrible is that?
 - How wrong can we be?
 - Let's pray that we will not see ugly, what's beautiful to our God.
 - May I encourage us to examine what you consider ugly and prayerfully ask God, how do You see them?

Jesus

So, from such dark and evil background, I want us to see three ways Jesus' aroma fills and ministers to the hearts of the people, which I pray, includes our hearts as well.

I. First of all, I want us to see— **how amazing Jesus is.**

- Notice, in the midst of hatred and indignation, Jesus did not join the ugliness around Him, but He delighted to share His grace.
 - **Mk 14:6**—"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to Me."
 - We humans, have a similar mentality with the sheep.
 - Thus, we can get easily swayed by the atmosphere that surrounds us, and too often, it is an evil atmosphere that sweeps us.
- Remember the people in John 8—they came to the Temple early in the morning, to listen and be blessed by Jesus' teaching?
 - Yet, as soon as some of the Jewish leaders brought a woman caught in adultery, they were swept away by the ugly condemnation the leaders were scheming.
 - So, do you recollect the change of atmosphere because of the evil some people injected into the gathering in the Temple?
 - Did you know, these people were on the verge of turning a Bible study with Jesus, into a time of stoning a woman to death?
 - Did you hear?—A Bible study was about to turn into a death sentence.
 - That's what a drop of evil can do, if we are not careful and get swept by evil.
 - When the people turned their attention from Jesus to the Jewish leaders —they were focused on the sin of this adulterous woman.

- And all they could think was, when can we start throwing our stones and kill this adulterous, evil woman?
- However, when Jesus helped them, to turn their attention back to His words, let's again remember what happened.
 - **Jn 8:7, 9**—"Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her... At this, those who heard (Jesus' words) began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there."
 - Jesus blessed them to not be fixated on the sin of the woman, but He blessed them, to be able to see their own sins.
 - And, seeing their own sins, they could no longer condemn her.
 - They knew, "they" also deserved the wrath they wanted to pour unto her.
- Similarly, in our passage in Mk 14, Jesus helped the people see, what they were doing was wrong.
 - Dear people of God, whenever we see the sins in others, may we not be quick to criticize them; rather, may we be slow to speak, slow to be angry (Jam 1:19).
 - I pray that **our God will bless us to use their sin as a mirror to us, so that God will bless us to also see our own sins.**
 - So, whenever we see sins in others, may God bless us to repent for our sins, and after doing so, may our God bless us to pray for others, so they too can repent for their sins.
 - Remember, repentance is OCT—own up our sins, confess our sins, and turn from our sins unto God.

In our passage however, Jesus wanted the people to see that this woman was not actually sinning, but what she was doing was a beautiful thing.

- While the Jewish leaders and people were turning a celebration of God's goodness into an opportunity to criticize, to hate, to blame her for being wasteful, Jesus wanted them to see a beautiful thing.
 - How awesome it would be, if we are not easily swept into the ugliness of sin around us; rather, our God would use us to point out to others, how beautiful Jesus can turn things.
- That's who Jesus is—He displays grace when ugliness surrounds us.
 - That's how amazing Jesus is—have you met Him?
 - Are your ways and words exuding with the aroma of Christ to others?

II. Secondly, **we see Jesus as the defender of the weak.**

- **Mk 14:6-9**—"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to Me." The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have Me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on My body beforehand to prepare for My burial. Truly I tell you, whenever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."
- Life for the weak people was always difficult and unfair, then and even now.

-
- Here she was, lovingly and generously pouring her great treasure in order to bless her Lord.
 - But for her goodness, instead of compliments, she received a harsh rebuke.
 - But, do you see what happened here?—She did not need to defend herself, because Jesus was protecting her.
 - **Mk 14:6**—“Leave her alone,’ said Jesus. ‘Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to Me.’”
 - Not only leave her alone, but she has done a beautiful thing—says Jesus.
 - Jesus not only defended her, but He exalted her.
 - Did you know, that’s how Jesus is to all of His people?
 1. He not only defends us in our weakness—but He exalts His people.
 2. He not only protects us—but He blesses us to thrive.
 3. He not only provides for our needs—but He provides us exceedingly abundantly.
 4. He not only walks with us—but He carries us when we are not able on our own.
 5. He not only hears us when we pray—but He never drops any of our requests.
 6. He actually prays for us more than we pray for ourselves—for His prayers for us is unceasing.
 - Did you know, Jesus truly loves us more than we love ourselves?
 - As you well know, sometimes, we knowingly choose what’s bad for us, but that’s never the case with Jesus, for He always chooses what best for us, even when we choose to disobey Him.
 - I am being serious, no one loves us more than Jesus, and that includes, ourselves; really, Jesus really loves us more than we love ourselves.
 - That’s why, we can freely, lovingly and joyfully obey Jesus more than ourselves, because we know, He truly knows what’s best for us and always chooses what best for us, because no one loves us more than Jesus.
 - So, dear brothers and sisters, did you know that our God does not only defend the weak, but He makes the weak strong in Him?
 - **2Cor 12:9**—“But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness’....”
 - Our God makes us perfect in our weakness—amazing.
 - Have you met this beautiful God?
 - Let’s understand, we don’t have to pretend to be strong before the people.
 - No, we don’t, because all we have to do, is to testify and witness to the people around us—that I am not strong, but I know Someone stronger than anyone else, Someone who can protect us from all harm, and His name is Jesus the Christ.
 - So, let’s ask the people around us—do you want to meet Him; do you want to know more about Him?
 - Let’s tell them, our lives is to tell people around us—who Jesus is; what He has done for me, and what He can do for you as well.
-

-
- Oh, how beautiful it will be, if we can be Christ's aroma to the people who are weak, who are hurting, who have not met our beautiful Savior yet?

III. Thirdly, **Jesus knew He came to lay down His life.**

- All of our lives are about taking steps to better our living, but for Jesus, His life was about preparing to die well, for He was born to be crucified.
 - And when this woman poured her very expensive perfume on Jesus, it was one of the final steps to prepare for His death, which is what made her action so beautiful in His eyes.
- Jesus saw life in the world, through the lens of death and His eternal kingdom.
 1. While the people of the world live for success, He gladly failed and died for us.
 2. While the people live for temporary satisfaction, He willingly laid down His life, sacrificing His glory, His treasures, and His joy, all to purchase us with His demise.
 3. While the people want to grab, amass, possess, invest, and save more in our banks, He calls us to generously give our treasures to others, because He came to give us His most precious and generous gift, His life and His kingdom.
- Seeing our lives from Jesus' lens, we can behold two truths that should shape us more like Him.
 1. While the people were scheming to kill Him, Jesus has actually already offered His life, to die for sinners like them, for sinners like you and I.
 - Did you hear, Jesus already made plans to sacrifice Himself for the very people who were scheming to kill Him?
 - While the world teaches us to hate and to cancel our enemies, Jesus instead gave up His life for the people who hated Him (Rom 5:8).
 - How could He love the people who hated Him, and yet, that's what Jesus did—He loved His enemies, and demonstrated His love by dying for them, so that He could save them and raise them to be His bride.
 - Oh, the love of Jesus is beyond our understanding; it is truly beyond our comprehension; it is truly so high, so deep, so wide that I can only respond with my deepest gratitude, for words fail me.
 2. While the people would rebuke others for even something good, Jesus would defend, He would stand, even be lifted up on the cross for the people He loves, for you and for me.
 - Reflecting my life in light of Jesus, I am so ashamed, because instead of defending, too often I can be so critical, especially over my beloved wife.
 - Truth be told, I do so much more foolish things than she does, but to my eyes, I see her foolishness so much more clearer than mine.
 - What a hypocrite I am—for I am so quick to point out the sins in others, and yet, when it comes to my greater sins, I am so quick to excuse myself and keep quiet.
 - I pray that we will all be quick to repent for our hypocrisy.

- If I may dare to compare myself with Jesus, this is what I see.
 - I am quick to criticize others, while Jesus is quick to forgive us.
 - I am quick to exalt myself, while Jesus is quick to humble Himself.
 - I am quick to seek my benefits, but my Lord Jesus is quick to offer His life, and be lifted up on the cross for me, for His people.
 - Oh, how different Jesus is from me.
 - Oh, how I want to be more like Jesus—you too, right?

In closing

We want to close this message with our sermon title, “An Aroma of Christ.”

- What does it mean to be an aroma of Christ in our lives?
 - We were taught three of Christ’s aroma through our message today.
 1. Our Lord Jesus turned an ugly criticism filled situation for this woman, into a time of celebration of God’s goodness.
 2. Jesus stood up for this weak and defenseless woman, and protected her.
 3. Jesus lovingly chose to be lifted up and sacrifice Himself in order to save this woman.
- When we learn to live more like Jesus before the people we are with, then, when they get curious why we are acting so differently than most people, we can tell them, “It’s not me, but it’s Jesus in me.”
 - We can tell others, “When we truly behold Jesus in our lives, then His way lovingly exudes through us.”
- Imagine, the people around us, smelling the aroma of Christ in us—that’s an amazing life; that’s a beautiful life.
 - May the aroma of Christ truly waft from us, and fill the hearts of the people around us.

Responsive Hymn

Hymn — How Great Thou Art

Prayer Time (Tammy Moon)

1. Pray for our church and our leaders—Elder Frank Staszak (Mission Min), Tammy Moon (Fellowship Min), Wei Zhao (Welcoming Min), Joanna Olsen (Finance Min), Judy Jung (PLT), Sabrina Henderson (Administration Min), Caty Krauter (Prayer Min), Pastor Joshua Lee (Word Min).
 - Please pray with us for a Praise Ministry leader and a new Praise Team.
2. Pray for our church family— for physical and spiritual wellness.
3. Pray for our worship—that we will taste God’s goodness in our worship.

Church News

1. **Welcome**—
2. **Prayer Meeting**—we will have our monthly prayer meeting @11:10am @Pastor Joshua’s office.
 - Join us. Let’s pray together.
3. **Prayer-Letter for 2025**—We will collect your Prayer-Letter today, and unsealed them on the last Sunday of 2025.
4. **Joint Worship with LCC**—will be next Sunday on 2/2. The worship will begin at 10am.
 - The worship will be followed by lunch and your are invited to stay for a special praise time by the different groups of LCC.
5. **Wednesday Bible Study** (6:40-7:55pm)—we are studying the Book of Ruth for 8 weeks..
 - This book is an incredibly beautiful story of Ruth and Naomi and Boaz, and how God works in their lives. Join us, for this blessed time to taste God’s goodness through our study together.
6. **Prayer Warriors**—meet on Wed evenings from 8-9pm at our individual homes.
 - Though all of us will be in our homes, yet, we pray together at our designated time.
 - For questions, please speak with our sister Caty Krauter.
7. **New Membership Class**—will be a 4-weeks class, from 11am-12noon (on 2/9, 2/16, 2/23, 3/2).
 - Please speak with Pastor Joshua for more information.
8. **Devotion Time**—will resume on 2/9/25 (11:10am-12noon), as we read one chapter each week and discuss from Levi Lusko’s book, “Take Back Your Life.” Join us. Let’s learn together
9. **2024 Contribution Statement**—Contribution statements are available upon request. Please contact our Finance Ministry Leader, Joanna Kim (joannakim70@gmail.com) to receive yours.
10. **Coffee with Pastor Joshua**—do you want to meet and talk with Pastor Joshua over coffee? If so, you can reach him—by phone or text @ 408-205-1182, or over email—joshuanlmc@yahoo.com

February Calendar

- Sunday (2/2) — Joint worship with LCC @10am.
- Sunday (2/9) — Worship, followed by fellowship time and Devotion time (also Membership class).
- Sunday (2/16) — Worship, followed by fellowship time and Devotion time (also Membership class).
- Sunday (2/23) — Worship, followed by fellowship time and prayer time (also Membership class).

Weekday calendar

- On Wednesdays — Bible studies from 6:40-7:55pm, and Prayer Warriors from 8-9pm.

59. Mk 14:1-11 An Aroma of Christ (GCC—1/26/25)

- **Mk 14:1**—“Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away...”
- **Mk 14:1, 4-5**—“Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill Him.... Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, ‘Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.’ And they rebuked her harshly.”
- **Mk 14:6**—“Leave her alone,’ said Jesus. ‘Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to Me.’”
- **Jn 8:7, 9**—“Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her... At this, those who heard (Jesus’ words) began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.”
- **Mk 14:6-9**—“Leave her alone,’ said Jesus. ‘Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to Me.’ The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have Me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on My body beforehand to prepare for My burial. Truly I tell you, whenever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”
- **Mk 14:6**—“Leave her alone,’ said Jesus. ‘Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to Me.’”
- **2Cor 12:9**—“But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness’....”