

A Judas' actions:

❖ Betrayal. Mark 14:1-11.

- Mark presents the betrayal of Jesus as a new “sandwich” story:
 - (1) Mark 14:1-2. They are looking for a way to arrest Jesus
 - (2) Mark 14:3-9. The perfume spilled
 - (3) Mark 14:10-11. Judas betrays Jesus
- Two days before Easter, the priests and scribes decide to act now to kill Jesus. Before presenting Judas as the traitor, Mark presents the trigger that led him to carry out this action: his greed (the story of the spilled perfume, which occurred several days before, according to John 12:1-3).
- In Mark, the contrast between Mary and Judas is striking:

María	Judas
He does not mention her by name (v. 3a)	He mentions him by name (v. 10a)
Gift to Jesus (v. 3b)	Betrays Jesus (v. 10b)
Declare the value of the gift (v. 5)	The amount received is not declared (v. 11a)
His act was to be remembered for good (v. 9)	We all remember his act for the worse

B Jesus' actions:

❖ The new covenant. Mark 14:22-31.

- That year, Passover began at sundown on Thursday and ended at sundown on Friday, when the Jews ate the Passover lamb sacrificed during the day.
- Late on Thursday night, Jesus met with the twelve in the upper room. At that time, he instituted a new covenant: the body and blood of the Lamb of God, represented in the bread and wine (Mark 14:22-25).
- The new covenant, like the old, was to be ratified with blood (Ex. 24:8; Heb. 9:22; Mark 14:24).
- After singing the hymn and leaving the room, Jesus made three amazing prophecies:
 - (1) He announced the flight of his disciples (Mark 14:26-27; Zech. 13:7)
 - (2) He announced his resurrection (Mark 14:28)
 - (3) He announced the triple denial of Peter (Mark 14:29-31)

❖ The cup of suffering. Mark 14:32-42.

- Arriving at Gethsemane, Jesus left eight apostles at the entrance, while he entered the garden with the other three apostles (Mark 14:32-33).
- He earnestly asked these three to watch with him, to encourage him in these distressing moments (Mark 14:34). If they had obeyed this command, they would have been prepared to remain faithful and not give in to temptation, as Peter did (Mark 14:37-38).
- For his part, Jesus asked his Father in his anguish to deliver him from the suffering that lay before him (Mark 14:35-36).
- God's answer was: “NO”. For the love of his Son, He could have freed him. But, out of love for us, he allowed Jesus to suffer and die, to give us salvation (John 3:16).

C The actions of friends and enemies:

❖ The friends flee. Mark 14:43-52.

- Hiding his betrayal behind a kiss, Judas betrayed Jesus (Mark 14:43-45).
- From that moment on, events unfold quickly:
 - (1) The mob arrests Jesus (v. 46)
 - (2) Peter defends Jesus and hurts a servant (v. 47)
 - (3) Jesus criticizes the way in which he is arrested (v. 48-49)
 - (4) The apostles abandon Jesus (v. 50)
 - (5) A young man (probably Mark himself) is almost arrested (v. 51-52)

❖ Judgment and denial. Mark 14:53-72.

- We now find Mark's last "sandwich" story:
 - (1) Mark 14:54. Peter approaches Jesus
 - (2) Mark 14:55-65. Jesus is judged
 - (3) Mark 14:66-72. Peter denies Jesus
- Not even with false witnesses were the priests and scribes able to find a clear accusation against Jesus (Mark 14:55-59).
- Faced with Jesus' silence, Caiaphas pressured him to declare whether or not he was the Messiah (Mark 14:61). The one who asks us to confess him before men could not fail to testify at that moment: "I am" (Mark 14:62; Luke 12:8).
- The wrath of everyone present fell on Jesus (Mark 14:65). As they mockingly asked him to prophesy, Jesus saw how his prophecy was being fulfilled at that moment (Luke 22:61). Without knowing it, Peter was a demonstration that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.
- For his part, Pedro was living his own trial. But, unlike his Master, he denied his sonship (Mark 14:66-72).