

The Providence of God Mark 14:1-11

I. The only survivor of a shipwreck washed up on a small uninhabited island. He cried out to God to save him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a rough hut and put his few possessions in it. But then one day, after hunting for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened; he was stung with grief.

Early the next day, though, a ship drew near the island and rescued him. "How did you know I was here?" he asked the crew. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

II. The purpose of this story is to show us the providence of God at work.

1. He cried out to God for help.
2. As the story suggests, God helped, but not in the way he expected.

III. Without question the Scriptures do teach of the providence of God.

- Joseph in Egypt **Gen. 45:4-8**
Moses and Pharaoh **Ex. 3:19,20**

IV. The comfort we find in knowing of God's providence is that it assures us that He is the moving force in this universe, and as such His plans are sure to come out the way He desires,

- Eph. 3:8-11**
Acts 2:22,23

V. Another example of God's providence is found in **Mark 14:1-11**. As we examine this passage we will see the hand of God at work in the death of Jesus. It was God's providence and He worked in such a way as to assure it happened as He desired.

VI. And this is the hope we find in God's providence. *The providence of God assures us that His plans are sure to come out according to His will.*

VII. In Mark 14 we are going to see God's providence carried out. He does this through knowing and using the moral character of those involved

1. **God's Providence carried out through what was good**
2. **God's Providence carried out through what was evil**

VIII. Before we get into the text we need to set the stage that introduces us to God's providence.

1. **Mark 14:1,2**
2. The chief priests and Scribes are planning to kill Jesus
3. But they don't plan on doing it at their present time.
4. Yet we know that it was God's predetermined plan that Jesus be a symbol of the Passover Sacrifice, **John 1:29, 1Peter 1:18,19, Rev. 5:6-10**
5. So Jesus was going to die when God determined, not man.
6. This is where God's providence enters in.

Trans: Let's begin then by consider God's providence working through what was good. This is our first point.

1. God's Providence carried out through what was good

A. **Mark 14:3**

B. Mary was the one who did this, according to **John 12:1-3**.

C. This Mary is the sister of Martha and Lazarus, **John 11:1-3**

D. So Mary comes to Jesus and anoints Him with a very costly oil, valued at almost a years salary, **John 12:5**

E. The question is why did she do this?

1. Jesus said she did it to prepare him for His burial, **Mark 14:8**
2. But this may not have been her intention, **John 19:40**

Appl: We know that Jesus loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus, John 11:5. It would be natural for Mary to love Jesus as well.

Her coming to Jesus to pour this costly perfume upon Him may have simply been a sacrificial act of love, especially since Jesus had raised her brother from the dead.

But why then did Jesus say it was used for His burial? This is where Jesus takes something good done by Mary to set the stage for God's providence to be carried out through what was evil.

Trans: This takes us to our second point

2. God' Providence carried out through what was evil

A. When Mary anointed Jesus, Judas and others, (possibly apostles) become indignant.

Mark 14:4,5
John 12:4,5

B. Judas rebukes Mary and even Jesus in what has taken place.

1. Mary wasted the perfume.
2. Jesus didn't stop her.

C. Judas acted as if he had concern for the poor, but the Scriptures are clear as to why he did this, **John 12:5,6**

D. Following Judas' comments Jesus does two things.

1. He rebukes Judas, **Mark 14:6**
2. He proclaims His burial anointing, **Mark 11:8**

E. What is the result of this? **Mark 14:10-11**

Appl: As Mary sets out to do what is good, we note that Satan was active in Judas seeking to do evil.

Judas takes the good act of Mary and attempts to show it as wrong. But Judas only did this because he was upset at loosing the funds he could have pilfered from the money box.

This is the final straw and Judas carries out his plan to betray Jesus.

Con: Now let me wrap this up by showing how God's providence is carried out through those who are good and evil.

As we consider what has transpired we see two sides of the coin.

1. We have Mary , who is good, doing good.
2. We have Judas who is evil doing evil.

But we also have a third group, the chief priests and scribes who were seeking to kill Jesus.

Now remember, they didn't want to kill Jesus during the Passover feast, for fear of the people.

But it was God's will that Jesus be the Sacrificial Passover Lamb, for the sins of the world.

So follow the workings of God's providence with me.

1. There is the initial plot to kill Jesus, **John 11:47-53**
2. The Priest and Scribes were going to wait until after the Passover, **Mark 14:1,2**
3. But through the good work of Mary, Judas who had been already planning to betray Jesus, **John 12:4**, took that moment to offer to the Priests the opportunity they had been looking for.
4. As a result Jesus was eventually arrested and killed according to the plans of God, **Mark 14:49**

Illust: James 1:5 How do we get this wisdom we ask for? **James 1:2-4** (opportunity)

And this is the hope we find in God's providence. *The providence of God assures us that His plans are sure to come out according to His will.*