

**Sermon Notes of
Elder Ronald Kelly's Sermon on March 29, 2015
"The Fateful Final Week – Part 2"**

[In today's sermon, Elder Ronald Kelly finishes his two-part series based primarily on the Gospel of Mark about the final week of Jesus Christ leading up to the glory of His resurrection.]

Notes:

Introduction:

- The fateful final week – Wednesday through Saturday

Wednesday:

Mark 14:1, 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.

- The religious leaders had grown frustrated about finding a way to silence Jesus.
- They had pulled out all stops on Tuesday, but Jesus said nothing that would allow them to condemn him.
- They reasoned, "not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."
- They had to learn how to find him in a way apart from the crowd.
- Jesus had a huge crowd that followed him and hung on every word he spoke.
- Stealth was their last chance.
- Could they possibly find inside help? Thus the stage is set for Judas.

Home of Simon the leper in Bethany:

- Next Mark shifts the scene to the home of Simon the leper in Bethany.
- This unnamed woman brought a jar of very expensive ointment.
- She opened it and poured it generously on Jesus from head to foot.
- She lavishes her money on Jesus.

Mark 14:4, Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "why this waste of perfume? 5) It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor."

- But instead of condemning her, Jesus commended her and gave testimony that she was anointing him in preparation for his burial.
- She truly believed who Jesus really was – the Son of God to take away our sins.
- Some call her the first Christian.
- Some scholars believe Judas was one of those who were critical of her.

Judas Iscariot:

Mark 14:10, Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. 11) They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

- By now, according to other accounts, Judas set in motion his plan to betray Jesus.
- He got 30 pieces of silver that ultimately turned out to be worthless.
- Many books have been written about why Judas betrayed Jesus to the religious leaders

Writing style of Mark:

- He referred to incident A-1 (the Pharisees wanted to arrest Jesus secretly.)
- Then went on to incident B (the unnamed woman and the alabaster box anointing.)
- Mark then went back to the first incident with an update A-2 (Judas betrays Jesus.)
- The literary style is a comparison of the worst action possible while the anointing of oil implies the best

Thursday:

Mark 14:12, On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

13) So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. 14) Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 15) He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

16) The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

During supper Jesus did three things:

1. Revealed someone would betray him
2. Washed the disciples feet – a great act of humility.
3. Instituted the "new Passover" of bread and wine.
4. The "old Passover" would soon be obsolete.

Maunday Thursday:

- Jesus gave us a mandate to love one another and to serve one another.
- And He also gave us a mandate to partake of the elements of the bread and the cup.
- Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 11:26, "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Jesus' final comments to His disciples:

- As Thursday night progresses, the tension steadily mounts.

- Jesus knows what is prophesied. He is contemplative
- At this point, the Gospel of John gives a more complete picture of Jesus' final discourse to his disciples.
- His prayer for them and his prayer for all believers
- Knowing just how human even these devoted followers of Jesus were, he predicted their reactions to the coming trials he would endure.

Mark 14:27, You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, “for it is written: “I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.

- Within hours that would come to pass

29) Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.” 30) “Truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “today – yes, tonight – before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.”

31) But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same.

- Mr. Kelly said after reading this, he was tempted to say, “I wouldn't have disowned Jesus.”
- But he realizes that we would all do the same.
- We are no better than the disciples.

To Gethsemane:

- Jesus and the 11 disciples (Judas is gone) head toward the Mt. of Olives – to Gethsemane – apparently a place where they often went.
- They were to keep watch with Jesus, especially Peter, James and John.
- But through 3 different occasions while Jesus fervently prayed, the weary disciples fell asleep.

The arrest of Jesus:

- The hour has come – here comes Judas, the betrayer, with armed temple guards.
- In the rush of excitement, when Jesus declares he is the one they are looking for – the arresting soldiers fell over backwards
- They then grabbed Jesus, but one of the disciples (most think it was Peter) drew a sword at struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear.
- Jesus quickly attaches the cut off ear and heals him.
- Jesus quickly reprimands Peter – don't you know there are legions of angels at my disposal, if I so choose.
- Remember Jesus always taught his kingdom was not of this world.
- What do you believe the angels were thinking at this time?
- At this point the disciples ran in fear.

- Jesus is abandoned by the disciples.

Denial of Jesus by Peter:

- Peter tries to blend into the crowd, but is recognized.
- He then denies Jesus three times.

Mark 14:72, Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

Jesus on Jewish trial:

- These early morning proceedings were probably illegal
- By Jewish law such trials could not be held at night
- A quorum of 23 must be present at the Sanhedrin.
- This might explain why there wasn't any vote taken against Jesus.
- But, when questioned by the Sanhedrin, Jesus left no doubt about who he was:

Mark 14:61, Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the son of the blessed one?” 62) “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” 63) The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” He asked. They all condemned him as worthy of death.

- Needing no further justification, the religious leaders bound Jesus and took him to be tried by Pilate.
- Perhaps Judas had blended with the group – upon realizing who Jesus really was and what he had done, he threw the 30 pieces of silver on the ground at the feet of the Pharisees.

Judas' remorse:

- Judas does not comprehend any other way out for what he has done – he commits suicide – apparently that day or the next.

Jesus before Pilate:

Mark 15:2, “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “You have said so,” Jesus replied.

- Hoping for a different outcome, Pilate tries 2 tactics
 1. Release Jesus or Barabbas.
 2. Have Jesus beaten and hope for crowd sympathy.
- But, the crowd was relentless demanding the crucifixion of Jesus
- Pilot tries to wash his hands of the matter
- So he gives the orders to the soldiers to crucify Jesus

The crucifixion of Jesus:

- Jesus is led to be crucified
- At 3:00 in the afternoon, what had begun at 9:00 that morning was complete.
- As Jesus died late that Friday afternoon, he cried out, "it is finished." There was no further price to pay.
- Sin had been atoned for.
- Jesus gasped his last breath and died.

Burial of Jesus:

- As evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea was granted permission to bury Jesus.
- It had to happen quickly because Sabbath began at sundown.
- For all intents and purposes this is where the story would end
- But this is no ordinary story.
- It's Saturday - but Sunday's a comin'

S. M. Lockridge sermon video:

- S. M. Lockridge (1913-2000) was a prominent African-American preacher known for his dynamic, passionate, and fervent sermons.
- One of his most famous sermons "It's Friday. But Sunday's Coming!" that he began to deliver the lesson himself and even wrote a book with that title.

Quotes from the video:

- You see, the narrative of Jesus crucifixion is one of betrayal ...Denial...Cowardice... Envy...Hate...Brutality...Suffering...Despair...Defeat...Death.
- It's Friday. Jesus is praying. Peter's a sleeping. Judas is betraying. But Sunday's comin'.
- It's Friday. Pilate's struggling. The council is conspiring. The crowd is vilifying. They don't even know that Sunday's comin'.
- It's Friday. The disciples are running like sheep without a shepherd. Mary's crying. Peter is denying. But they don't know that Sunday's a comin'.
- It's Friday. The Romans beat Jesus. They robe him in scarlet. They crown him with thorns. But they don't know that Sunday's comin'.
- It's Friday. Jesus is walking to Calvary. His blood dripping. His body stumbling. And his spirit's burdened. But you see, it's only Friday. Sunday's comin'.
- It's Friday. The world's winning. People are sinning. And evil's grinning.
- It's Friday. The soldiers nail the Savior's hands to the cross. They nail his feet to the cross. And then they raise him up next to criminals.
- It's Friday. But let me tell you something -- Sunday's comin'.

- It's Friday. The disciples are questioning. What has happened to their King? And the Pharisees are celebrating that their scheming has been achieved. But they don't know it's only Friday. Sunday's comin'.
- It's Friday. He's hanging on the cross. Feeling forsaken by his Father. Left alone and dying.
- Can anybody save him? It's Friday. But Sunday's comin'.
- It's Friday. The earth trembles. The sky grows dark. The King yields his spirit. It's Friday.
- Hope is lost. Death has won. Sin has conquered and Satan's just a laughin'.
- It's Friday. Jesus is buried. A soldier stands guard. And a rock is rolled into place.
- But it's Friday. It is only Friday. Sunday is a comin'!

The Sabbath:

- Pilate grants the chief priests' request to set a guard at the tomb of Jesus.
- So guards are set at the tomb.
- As detailed as the accounts are for the six days of "the holy week", the Bible is strangely silent on the day before Easter Sunday.
- The disciples huddled in fear of their own lives wondering what to make of the horrors of Friday.

The Resurrection:

- Join us next week as pastor Glen Weber guides us into the glory of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Closing Prayer