

“It was now two days before Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The leading priests and the teachers of religious law were still looking for an opportunity to capture Jesus secretly and kill him. “But not during the Passover celebration,” they agreed, “or the people may riot.” Mark 14:1-2 NLT

lectio // Mark 14:1-11

The plot thickens! The target on Jesus back grows with each passing day. The thought, the idea to KILL had already been hatched weeks earlier. I don't know if it was coordinated or there were several groups that were simultaneously planning the same outcome. To them, this blasphemous terrorist must die. Reality: they are scheming to kill God and fulfill thousands of years of prophecy. They didn't want to kill him publicly, of course, because it may cause a riot among the common people. You know, the dumb ones who don't really understand how dangerous this Jesus really is. The simple, the poor who just see the flashy miracles and charisma of a charlatan. The religious leaders know better and they are plotting for the safety of Israel and protecting the people for “their own good.” This is clearly how bad leaders view the situations they can't control. Well, their patsy, their stooge was soon to appear. And Mark writes about the unusual scene that pushed one of the insiders, one of the trusted disciples over the edge, he says, “Meanwhile...” and tells the story of extravagant generosity (another fulfillment of prophecy) that drove Judas crazy. Ya just can't make this stuff up!

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Dad,

I am so grieved when I read about leaders who get so far off track that they completely end up on the wrong side of right! There are so many human nuances of the dangers that can infect good men and women and drive them to extremes of evil. How can I (we) ever be trusted to judge our motives and intentions properly when our minds are selfishly clouded by power, control, safety or security? Help me (us) in my frailty of falsehood! Continue to give me a clean heart and clean hands. Let your mercy and grace be so much a part of my life that it allows me to make proper godly decisions over my life and others I lead. I am desperate for your wisdom.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root