

Preparing for the Crucifixion

Matthew 26	Mark 14	Luke 22
	1{a} It was now two days before the feast of the Passover and the unleavened bread, [...]¹	1 Now the feast of unleavened bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching.
3{a} Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people [...]	1{b} [...] and the chief priests and the scribes [...]	2{a} The chief priests and the scribes [...]
3{b} [...] were gathered together in the court of the High Priest, who was called Caiaphas.		
4 They took counsel together that they might take Jesus by deceit, and kill Him.	1{c} [...] sought how they might seize Him by deception, and kill Him.	2{b} [...] sought how they might put Him to death, [...]
5{a} But they said, “Not during the feast,” [...]	2{a} For they said, “Not during the feast,” [...]	
5{b} [...] “lest a riot occur among the people.”	2{b} [...] “because there might be a riot among the people.”	2{c} [...] for they feared the people.

Matthew 26	Mark 14
6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, [...]²	3{a} While He was at Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, [...]
	3{b} [...] as He sat at the table, [...]
7 a woman came to Him having an alabaster jar of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table.	3{c} [...] a woman came having an alabaster jar of ointment of pure nard—very costly. She broke the jar, and poured it over His head.
8 But when His disciples saw this, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste?”	4 But there were some who were indignant among themselves, saying, “Why has this ointment been wasted?”

¹ Since Passover began on Thursday night (Nisan 15), this seems to refer to Wednesday (13 Nisan).

² There appear to be three recorded instances of Jesus being anointed during His ministry: one recorded by Luke (Lk 7:36-39), one recorded by John (Jn 12:1-8), and one recorded here by Matthew and Mark (Mt 26:6-13; Mk 14:3-9). The event in Luke takes place early in Jesus’ ministry at the home of a Pharisee near Capernaum, and an unnamed woman anoints His feet. The event in John takes place about seven days before the crucifixion at the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in Bethany, and Mary anoints His feet. The event in Matthew and Mark takes place about three days before the crucifixion at the home of Simon the leper in Bethany, and an unnamed woman anoints His head. There are enough similarities between the latter two events that an argument could be made that they are the same event—with Matthew and Mark placing the story out of its chronological order to illustrate the people’s esteem for Jesus in Mt 26:5; Mk 14:2; Lk 22:2. However, the best explanation seems to be that there are three separate events.

Matthew 26	Mark 14
9 “For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor.”	5{a} “For this might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and given to the poor.” [...] ³
	5{b} [...] They grumbled against her.
10 However, knowing this, Jesus said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? She has done a good work for Me.”	6 But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me.”
11{a} “For you always have the poor with you;” [...]	7{a} “For you always have the poor with you,” [...]
	7{b} [...] “and whenever you want to, you can do them good;” [...]
11{b} [...] “but you don’t always have Me.”	7{c} [...] “but you will not always have Me.”
12 “For in pouring this ointment on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial.”	8 “She has done what she could. She has anointed My body beforehand for the burying.”
13 “Most certainly I tell you, wherever this Good News is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of as a memorial of her.”	9 “Most certainly I tell you, wherever this Good News may be preached throughout the whole world, that which this woman has done will also be spoken of for a memorial of her.”

Matthew 26	Mark 14	Luke 22
		3{a} Satan entered into Judas, [...]
14{a} Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, [...]	10{a} Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, [...]	3{b} [...] who was also called Iscariot, who was counted with the twelve.
14{b} [...] went to the chief priests,	10{b} [...] went away to the chief priests, [...]	4{a} He went away, and talked with the chief priests and captains [...]
	10{c} [...] that he might deliver Him to them.	4{b} [...] about how he might deliver Him to them.
	11{a} They, when they heard it, were glad, [...]	5{a} They were glad, [...]
15{a} and said, “What are you willing to give me, that I should deliver Him to you?” [...]		
	11{b} [...] and promised to give him money. [...]	5{b} [...] and agreed to give him money.
15{b} [...] They weighed out for him thirty pieces of silver.		

³ The cost of the oil (Mk 14:5) was roughly equal to ten months’ wages for an agricultural laborer.

Matthew 26	Mark 14	Luke 22
16 From that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.	11{c} [...] He sought how he might conveniently deliver Him.	6{a} He consented, and sought an opportunity to deliver Him to them [...]
		6{b} [...] in the absence of the multitude.
17{a} Now on the first day of unleavened bread, [...] ⁴	12{a} On the first day of unleavened bread, when they sacrificed the Passover, [...]	7 The day of unleavened bread came, on which the Passover must be sacrificed.
		8 Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat.”
17{b} [...] the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare” [...]	12{b} [...] His disciples asked Him, “Where do You want us to go and prepare” [...]	9 They said to Him, “Where do You want us to prepare?”
17{c} [...] “for You to eat the Passover?”	12{c} [...] “that You may eat the Passover?”	
	13{a} He sent two of His disciples, [...]	
18{a} He said, “Go into the city” [...]	13{b} [...] and said to them, “Go into the city,” [...]	10{a} He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered into the city,” [...]
	13{c} [...] “and there you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him,”	10{b} [...] “a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him” [...]
	14{a} “and wherever he enters in,” [...]	10{c} [...] “into the house which he enters.”
18{b} [...] “to a certain person, and tell him, ‘The Teacher says,’” [...]	14{b} [...] “tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says,’” [...]	11{a} “Tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you,’” [...]
18{c} [...] ““My time is at hand.”” [...]		
18{d} [...] ““I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.””	14{c} [...] ““Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?””	11{b} [...] ““Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?””
	15 “He will himself show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Get ready for us there.”	12 “He will show you a large, furnished upper room. Make preparations there.”
	16{a} His disciples went out, [...]	13{a} They went, [...]
	16{b} [...] and came into the city, [...]	
19 The disciples did as Jesus commanded them, and they prepared the Passover.	16{c} [...] and found things as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.	13{b} [...] found things as Jesus had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

⁴ The Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread overlap somewhat, so they are often lumped together, but they are not exactly the same. Passover began on Thursday night (15 Nisan), so this seems to refer to Thursday morning (14 Nisan).