



Leader Corner

Empty the Jar

Mark 14:1-11

The Gospel writers spend a lot of time, especially early on in their narratives, establishing the authority of Jesus. Was He who He claimed to be, and if so, how do we appropriately respond to Him? Christ's authority spans weather, sickness, the spiritual realm, and when honoring Him as King, across great spans of time to us, our talents, our finances, and every other aspect of our lives. What is the appropriate response when the King of the universe asks us to approach His throne? What do we hold in our hands to give Him, and what do we try to hold back? As you begin, think about these concepts as a group.

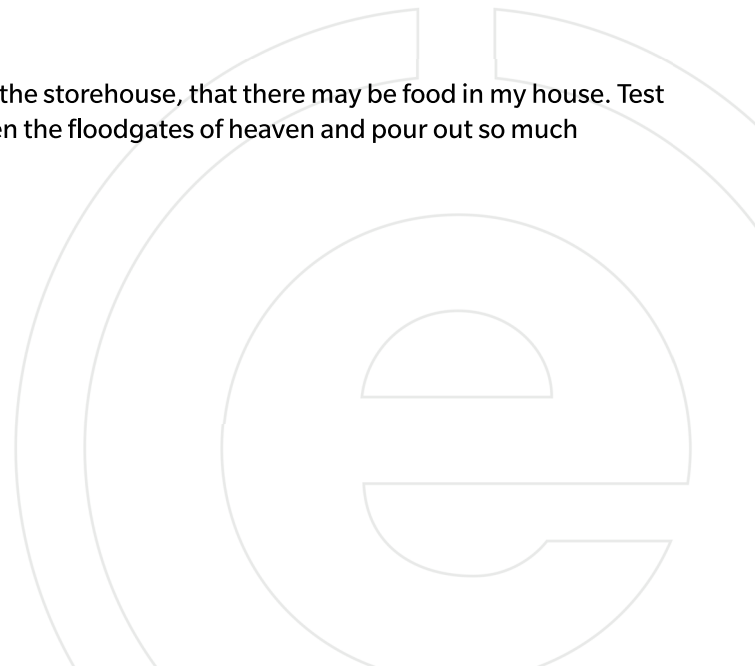
Main Idea: Empty the Jar | *We sacrificially give our first and best to Kingdom work through the Church.*

Main Teaching: Mark 14:1-11

Main Practice: Identifying how you and your group can sacrificially give.

Connect with Prayer & Praise

Read and pray Malachi 3:10 as a group, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."



with Principle

1. Read Mark 14:1-11 as a group, what central truths are present?
2. Why were the scribes seeking to arrest Jesus?
3. Notice whose house Jesus is at. Why do you think Mark included this detail in his narrative?
4. Verse 3 tells us this offering was costly. What do you make of this woman's behavior? What do we make of the disciples' response to her actions?
5. What do we make of Jesus' response in verses 7-9? Would it have been better to give the proceeds from the sale of the perfume to the poor?
6. Does God need our money, our gifts? If so, what does that say about Him? If not, why does He ask that we give it?
7. To expound on the last question, why give of our resources, talents, and time to the Church? Could we not disperse these resources ourselves?

with Practice

What offering are you pleased to bring to your King? Pray for clarity with your group on what you can bring to God. Celebrate with your group that this King allows us, His Church, to approach His Throne with our gifts.

for Further Study

Be sure to read the parallel accounts of this passage in Matthew 26 and John 12. What similarities and differences are present in the accounts?