

LESSON 12

WAKING UP TO REALITY

MARK 14:1–72



1 Describe a time when you were shocked to discover that something had taken place near you without your being aware of it.



Read Mark 14:1–72 and the following notes:

☐ 14:4, 5 ☐ 14:10 ☐ 14:27–31 ☐ 14:50 ☐ 14:60–64 ☐ 14:71

2 How could the disciples fall asleep that evening knowing that Jesus was so distressed (14:32–42)?

3 How could the disciples desert Jesus after vowing only a few hours earlier to die with him (14:50)?

4 On the eve of this crucial event in human history, we see a whole spectrum of responses from the people involved in this story. Complete the chart with a similar response of Christians today.

At that time	Today people
Mary worshiped	worship by . . .
Judas betrayed	betray by . . .
Disciples slept	sleep by . . .
Peter disowned	disown by . . .
Caiaphas plotted	plot against others by . . .

The disciples slept through Jesus' last few hours, time that could have been spent in preparation. Soon they would face the most difficult days of their lives. How could they have been so oblivious? How could they have neglected to pray at such an important moment? Even more sobering is that under the same conditions, we probably would have fared no better. So the question for us is, how can we wake up? How can we avoid this same spiritual lethargy? The antidote is to get a good dose of reality. Listen carefully to the words of Jesus. Take a hard look at the needs of others around you. Ask God to help you remain faithful in prayer. In other words, take life as seriously as the disciples should have that night. If you don't, you may wake up one day to discover that you slept through the revolution.



5 How do Christians sleep through the revolution today?

6 What does it mean to take life seriously?

7 Why is it difficult to identify with Christ and stand up boldly for him under pressure?



8 When have you been most alert to the work God is doing in the world around you?

9 What are the cares and concerns of this world that tend to distract you from being more alert spiritually?

10 What are some of the physical distractions that make it difficult for you to pray?

11 What would it take to get you to recognize that time is running out and that you need to wake up to the spiritual realities around you?



A The response of Simon's dinner guests when Mary anointed Jesus reflected their values (14:3–9). What were their values? Why were they upset? What “expensive perfume” of yours, if given to God in worship, would draw a similar reaction from others?

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B How did Jesus demonstrate courage during the final days of his life (14:1–72)? In what circumstances can you demonstrate more courage?

C Why do you think each disciple asked Jesus if he was the one who would betray him (14:19)?

D Why did Jesus agonize over his task (14:32–42)?

E Why did the disciples desert Jesus when he was taken (14:50–52)?

F Why did Peter follow far behind? What must he have thought and felt? Why did Peter cry after he denied knowing Christ? In what ways have you disowned Christ?