



## Nothing New

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**Scripture:** Mark 14:17-26

**Idea:** Uncertainty is nothing new. Times are uncertain, but God is not. He's still got the whole world in his hands.

### Introduction

One of the most dramatic moments in human history took place in what has been described as the upper room. Jesus and his men had gathered for the Passover meal—an annual meal Jewish families gathered to eat to commemorate the night before the morning when the nation would be released from Egyptian captivity. It was a meal eaten to remember God's faithfulness after 400 years of seeming faithlessness—400 years during which the Jewish people lived as slaves, but eventually became a nation.

Four hundred years of unanswered prayer. Four hundred years of harsh treatment. But at last, God had sent a deliverer—Moses—who stood up to the most powerful man on the planet, Pharaoh, and demanded that he let God's people go.

Now, 1,400 years later, Jesus is gathered with his disciples to commemorate that historic event. But the disciples are a bit distracted. Things aren't going well. Their popularity has diminished. They noted that Jesus did not enter Jerusalem by day, but stayed in the countryside until the sun set before entering. There was secrecy around where they would meet that night. Jesus hadn't even told *them*. And understandably so. They knew that there was a movement to have Jesus arrested. He kept talking about his death. And Judas was acting very strangely.

The **certainty** they had grown accustomed to was gone. Now there were more questions than answers. And as they gathered for their annual feast, things got even crazier.

Mark 14

<sup>17</sup>When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. <sup>18</sup>While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will **betray** me [*hand me over*] . . .

Since Jesus was rarely wrong, this didn't come as good news.

. . . —one who is eating with me."

<sup>19</sup>They were *saddened* [disappointed], and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?"

Nobody asked, "What do you mean?" Or, "To who?" They knew. They were just hoping it wasn't really going to happen. They knew the moment they heard he was headed to Jerusalem. It was as if he had given up . . . was walking into a trap.