

Jason Huffman
Matthew 26
3/13/24

Discussion Questions:

1. Why or how do you think religious elders could engage in such deceit?
2. Is there any equivalents to Mary's ointment for us today in extravagant worship or sacrifice to the Lord?
3. What do you think stewardship means to most people? Did Jesus think she was a good steward?
4. How does I Timothy 6:10 apply to Judas?
5. Why do you think Jesus told them one would betray Him?
6. If Jesus admitted how badly He felt, why do we have a hard time being honest about our emotions?

Teaching Notes:

Matthew 26:1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, *that* He said to His disciples, **2** "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."

There is no doubt Jesus knew when and what was happening.

3 Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, **4** and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill *Him*. **5** But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

Jesus said it would happen during Passover.
Their original plan is that it would not happen then.
Craft, deceit, guile...

6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, **7** a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured *it* on His head as He sat *at the table*.

This we know is Mary the sister of Lazarus.

8 But when His disciples saw *it*, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? **9** For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to *the poor*."

10 But when Jesus was aware of *it*, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. **11** For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. **12** For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did *it* for My burial. **13** Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

There are certain opportunities that we always have (poor)...

...and then there are 1 time moments we can take advantage of.

Stewardship is living with the clarity all you have is not yours.

14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests **15** and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. **16** So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

Judas was actively seeking to betray Jesus and profit from it.

When we care more about money than people...

...we will always come up short.

It was also the prophetic number from Zechariah 11.

17 Now on the first *day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread* the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" **18** And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.'" "

Jesus several times said, my time has not yet come.
But now it has come.

19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. **20** When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. **21** Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me."

22 And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?"

Did betrayal mean death in their minds?

23 He answered and said, "He who dipped *his* hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. **24** The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

It was a plan, but it was also a responsibility.
Judas had chosen to betray Jesus.

25 Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it."

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." **27** Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. **28** For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Jesus institutes communion...part of Passover repurposed.
He is predicting His body and His blood and the purpose of it all.

29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. **31** Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:

From Zechariah 13:7

'I will strike the Shepherd,
And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

32 But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

Jesus was always looking past the crucifixion.

This was the joy that was set before Him.

The cross was not the endgame, it was the beginning.

33 Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."

34 Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

35 Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.

Tragic but they all thought the same thing.

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." **37** And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. **38** Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

This is one of the most powerful and human parts of Jesus' life.

Feelings are part of being human.

Feelings should be felt and should be addressed.

When we understand our feelings, and when we can communicate our feelings, others are able to understand us and we are able to understand ourselves.

It is not a sin to feel, but it is a sin to act on those feelings in a way that is outside of faith and love.

There is a difference between a feeling and an action.

39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*.”

If there was another way we could be saved, this prayer time would have ended without Jesus being arrested.