

Matthew 26

Jesus

I. Plot to Kill Jesus

1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had **finished all these sayings...**

- **Jesus speaking to disciples...**

1. **Matthew 24/25** Flyover of events 2000+ years in their future
2. **Matthew 26** **Brings us back to real time...**

1b... [Then Jesus...] 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.**"

- **Passover is in two days...**

Passover in Egypt: Lamb's blood on wooden door caused death/judgement to Pass-over those who believed

This Passover: My Blood on wooden cross to cause death/judgment to Pass-over you and all who believe

- **You have two more days with Me...** I will be delivered up/crucified...

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.

- **Religious Leaders:**

1. Palace of Caiaphas the High Priest
2. Instead of worshipping Jesus...Plotting to kill Him/Take Him by trickery?

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. **He [Satan] was a murderer** from the beginning...

- **God is love...**yet God does hate

Proverbs 6:16 These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A **heart that devises wicked plans**, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

- **Hypocrites:** Make-believers/Actors...say love God but are about to...

Murder the Son of God under religious pretenses...

5 But they said, [okay let's murder Him, but...] "Not during the [Passover] feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

- **Why are they plotting to kill Jesus?**

1. **Physical Realm:** Losing followers, losing power, losing money, losing respect
2. Step back we **see what is really going on...**

God is using their sin [anger/jealousy] for His purpose; i.e. to move Jesus to the Cross
Jesus is in absolute/complete/total control. He goes to the Cross willingly for us...

John 10:17 "...My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18
No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.

SUMMARY Plot to Kill Jesus What they mean for evil God will use for good. God's Providence/Sovereignty

II. Anointing at Bethany

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.

- **Bethany:** Where Jesus stayed when He came to Jerusalem
 1. Where Jesus would ascend from [Luke 24]
 2. Mary, Martha, Lazarus home
 3. **Simon the Leper's home**...NOTE Jesus is in an unclean leper's home

I'm glad Jesus comes into the homes of untouchable, unclean, despised, sin-ridden
...and sits with us, eats with us, heals us

- Comes and pours expensive oil on Jesus head **as sat at table?**

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.

- **Disciples indignant:** rt. To curl arm. Make a fist showing disapproval at woman
- Judas keeper of the purse/instigator...

John 12:4 [Parallel during anointing. Then...] one of [Jesus] disciples, Judas Iscariot ... who would betray Him, said, ⁵"Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" ⁶This [Judas] said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he **used to take what was put in it.**

- Disgruntled Judas has always been looking for a reason to betray Jesus
- **This incident is the last straw...**

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.

- **Compelled by evil**... Sins of Greed/Jealousy of Jesus getting attention

Judas could not breathe freely among the [smell] of the ointment and all it [represented].

[Bruce]

- **Then?**

1. After Jesus calls out Judas hypocrisy
2. After Jesus thwarts his plan to steal
3. After Judas has had enough...found a reason

**Judas went to the Chief priests to cut a deal for more money
How dangerous is greed? What will people do for money?**

- **Q.** JD Rockefeller: How much is enough money?
- **A. Just a little bit more.** Miserable existence...never satisfied

Parable of Greedy/Generous: Each group is given access to food, but the utensils are too long to serve themselves. The greedy cannot cooperate, and consequently starve. The generous **feed one another** across the table and are filled.

Philippians 4:11b... I have **learned in whatever state I am, to be content:** 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

1 Timothy 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these **we shall be content.** 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in **destruction and perdition.**

- **Judas**

1. **Apostle:** Cast out demons, healed, preached/looked/smelled like rest
2. **AKA:** Son of perdition...

John 17:12b ... [Jesus prayer to Father] Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the **son of perdition**, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

3. **Judas: Type** of the AC...AKA Son of Perdition...

2 Thessalonians 2:3b... that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the **man of sin** is revealed, the **son of perdition**, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

How dangerous is the Love of Money?

Root of all kinds of evil. Beware the deceitfulness of Riches

- Begins with greed to jealousy to rebelling against God, ends in destruction

Luke 22:3 Then **Satan entered Judas**, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. 4 So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. 6 So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.

- Jesus would honor the woman Judas despised...

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."

- **Picture of Gospel:** Dying to self/Valuing new life in Jesus above all else

Philippians 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the **knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that **I may gain Christ**

- **Eternal Perspective.** Religious Leaders/Judas temporal they live to regret forever

Acts 1:25 ... Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to **his own place**

- **Judas a Traitor/Turncoat/Betrayer and yet...**

God is using Judas sin [greed/jealousy] for His purpose; i.e. to move Jesus to the Cross
Jesus is in absolute/complete/total control. He moves to Cross willingly for us...

SUMMARY Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

III. Judas Identified

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.'"" 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

- **Happy Time for Disciples?** Getting ready for the Passover Meal. Oblivious
- **Contemplative Time for Jesus the man:** Getting ready to eat Last Supper w/boys

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

- Prophesied 1000 yrs. earlier by David...

Psalms 41:9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.

- Near Prophecy: David's adviser/friend Ahithophel
- Distant **Prophecy:** Jesus **friend Judas**

Psalms 55:12 [David] For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; Then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him. 13 But it was you, a man my equal, My companion and my acquaintance. 14 We took sweet counsel together, And walked to the house of God in the [multitude].

Is it I?

- All seemed to understand potential for betrayal
- We cannot underestimate our potential to betray Jesus w/out leading of Spirit

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

Betrayal: Claim we care for someone while at the same time seeking their harm/destruction/humiliation. Syn. Backstabbing, disloyalty, double cross, faithlessness, falseness, infidelity, treachery, treason, two-timing, unfaithfulness

One of you who have been with me all these years will betray Me

Lived, laughed, cried, ministered, walked with each other yet for one of you it was all fake

- **Is it I?** Good question. ...yet Jesus will sustain us *as we trust in Him*

Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to **keep you from stumbling**, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.

No one who fell ever thought they would [right Peter?]
They trusted in self and not in the *keeping power* of the Spirit

SUMMARY Judas Identified Is it I? You said it...

IV. Lord's Supper

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.

- **Blood of the New Covenant:** The deal where I do it all the work...
 1. Give my body to be Broken for your healing
 2. Give my blood to be Shed for your forgiveness

Rejoice! This is the New Wine. New Covenant of My Blood
Freedom from Sin and Death. Eternal Life!

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.**"

Bridegroom will once again drink wine [experience joy] w/ the Bride
But only after bringing her to His Father's house

John 14:2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

- Wine a picture of Joy...

Psalms 104:15... wine ...makes glad the heart of man, Oil to make his face shine, And bread which strengthens man's heart.

- **Drunkenness is sin...**

Ephesians 5:18 ... do not be drunk with wine... but **be filled with the Spirit...**

Jesus Last Supper Example for True Disciples...

John 13:3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come **from God and was going to God**, ⁴ rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. ⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel with which He was girded.

Because Jesus knew who He was/where He was going
...He humbled Himself and served others

... 12 So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³ You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for *so* I am. ¹⁴ If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have **given you an example**, that you should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you **if you do them.**

Know who we are and where we are going We are now free to love as Jesus loved

John 15:12 This is My commandment, that you **love one another as I have loved you.**
¹³ Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

- **Love as I have loved?** Humbling ourselves before others w/no insecurity

Nothing is more important than loving others as we love ourselves
It is how we show our love to God

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

- **Last Supper with the boys...**

1. We remember this night at Communion:
2. Do this in remembrance of Me...yet one day memories become reality

I will not drink of this fruit of the vine any more...
Until I drink it with you in My Father's kingdom

30 And **when they had sung a hymn**, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

- **Three Psalms sung at Passover:** 116,117 and 118

Psalm 116:3 The pains of death surrounded me, And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I found trouble and sorrow. ⁴ Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I implore You, **deliver my soul!**"

- **Jesus knows what's coming:** Beating/Humiliation/Whipping/Crucifixion/Alone

1. Makes no excuses for not being able to love/having a bad day
2. Does not sink into Himself/Self Pity but...
3. **Jesus continues to love until the end...calls us to do the same**

- I have given you an example... Blessed are you if you do this...

V. Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

31 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: '**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."

- **Mount of Olives:** All of you will stumble because of Me

How to cause many people to fall? **Take down the leader**

- Shepherd Struck/Followers Scatter

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

- **They might stumble but not me...** famous last words

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before **destruction**/a haughty spirit before a fall [lit. **stumbling**]

34 Jesus said to [Peter], "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.**

SUMMARY Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

VI. Prayer in the Garden Crushed

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane **36** and He 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 [Jesus] said to them, "My **soul is exceedingly sorrowful**, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

- **Sorrowful/Deeply Distressed:** Horror taking humanities sin in His body on Cross

My soul is exceedingly sorrowful...even to death

The Man Jesus is being taunted/tempted...Crushed

- **Garden of Gethsemane:** lit. Oil Press
- Crushed bring forth **Olive Oil...**

2 Corinthians 1:8 [During our mission...] we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we **despaired even of life.** 9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves [Why did God allow this?] that we should **not trust in ourselves but in God**

who raises the dead, 10 who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that **He will still deliver us**

Life is Crushing at times. Yet...**God will use these times to call us to Himself
Jesus is being pressed...Needs time with His Father.**

- **Confides in inner circle of friends:** Peter, James and John...
- Three boys stay somewhere between the other 8 and Jesus. Judas is absent

39 [Jesus] 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."

Philippians 2:8 ... being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the **death of the cross.**

- **100% Man/100% God:** Jesus the 33 yr. old Man turns to His Father...

If it is possible to save humanity apart from the horror of the cross... let it pass
...Not My will but as You will

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin...

40 Then [Jesus] came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- **Three were a mess...**

Luke 22:45 When [Jesus] rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping **from sorrow.**

42 Again, a **second time**, [Jesus] went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."

- **The Man Jesus...**
 1. Again, pleads for intervention from Father
 2. Looking for a Ram in Thicket...yet **none would come**

One way to save man: Perfect human sacrifice on an **Old Wooden Cross**

Religious exercise is blasphemy/Offense against the God who sent His Son as a Gift

- Man sinned against Holy God/Separated from God
- Penalty for sin is death/Sacrifice must be perfect and we're not. **Thus...**

God became a man...**and that Man paid the penalty for our sin on the Cross**

- Father prepared a body for the Son of God...

Hebrews 10:4 ... it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, **But a body You have prepared for Me.**

2 Corinthians 5:19b... God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them

- **Cross:** Not an afterthought/plan B after man sinned in Garden of Eden
- **Eternal Plan** in place before there the earth existed...

Revelation 13:8b ... the Lamb slain **from the foundation of the world.**

- God was thinking of/making provision for you before He spoke world into existence
- **Most of the world yawns...**

43 And He **came and found them asleep again**, for their eyes were heavy.

- **Praise God!** He woke us up and brought us into His Light...

Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord [To proclaim to those sleeping] ... **14** "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And **Christ will give you light.**"

44 So [Jesus] left them, went away again, and prayed the **third time**, saying the same words. 45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going. See, **My betrayer is at hand.**"

- **Currently:** Possessed Judas w/ devilish mob marching up Mt of Olives

SUMMARY Prayer in the Garden

VII. Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane

47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

- **Overkill:** Great multitude w/swords/clubs

48 Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "**Whomever I kiss**, He is the One; **seize Him.**"

- Jesus looked like everyone else...

Isaiah 53:2 For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has **no form or comeliness**; And when we see Him, There is **no beauty** that we should desire Him.

49 Immediately [Judas] went up to Jesus and said, "**Greetings, Rabbi!**" and **kissed Him**. 50 But Jesus said to him, "**Friend**, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

- **Friend?**

1. One last opportunity to repent
2. No excuse at Judgment

51 And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

- **Gospel of John:** It was **Simon Peter**/servant **Malchus** [John tattles]
- **Luke:** Jesus put the ear back on his head

It isn't the last time Jesus has had to leave behind a mess left by one of His followers. "Had Jesus not healed Malchus, Peter would have been arrested as well; and there might have been four crosses at Calvary." [Barclay]

Peter doing his best: Trying hard to keep his promise not to deny

52 But Jesus said to [Peter], "**Put your sword in its place**, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

- I need you for later Peter

...wielding the power of this world in his hands, Peter could only cut off ears; but wielding the Word of God [Acts 2:37], Peter could **pierce hearts for God's glory** [Guzik]

53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? 54 How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, **that it must happen thus?**"

- Peter tempting Jesus to forsake the cross again...
 1. **Peter...**I have twelve legions of angels at My disposal
 2. **Peter...**This has to go down like this

55 In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a **robber**, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me.

- **Jesus calls out Religious Leader hypocrisy...**

1. Why have you come for Me as if a criminal?
2. You listened to me teach? What changed...

Luke 22:53 When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is **your hour, and the power of darkness.**"

56 But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.

- Scripture Fulfilled? Plan of God for Jesus to die on Old Rugged Cross

56... Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.

- And Scripture continued to be fulfilled...

Zechariah 13:7 "Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered..."

SUMMARY Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane

VIII. Jesus Faces the Sanhedrin

57 And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

- Jesus arrested and led away to illegal Religious trial

58 But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to **see the end**.

- See the end? To see the outcome.

Peter walked behind from a distance...stopped at High Priest courtyard...sat with enemy

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful...

- Digression of drifting from the Lord
 1. Walking with ungodly
 2. Standing with sinners
 3. Sitting with scornful
- **Pride weakened Peter:** Not me Lord! Not relying on the keeping power of Spirit

Jude 24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless

1 Corinthians 10:12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

- Peter will himself be crushed and learn how to trust. **Presently...**

Peter is Sitting w/ the enemy warming his hands...to see how this would turn out

59 Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council **sought false testimony** against Jesus to put Him to death, 60 but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward 61 and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"

- **Presumed Guilty...**

Shot an arrow of accusation into wall

Sought witnesses to draw bullseye of false accusation around it

- Found one who took Jesus out of context...He said He would destroy the Temple

John 2:18 [Religious leaders to Jesus] What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" 19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." 20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was **speaking of the temple of His body.**

62 And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" 63 But **Jesus kept silent.**

- Prophecy continues to be fulfilled...

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, **So He opened not His mouth.**

63b... And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" 64 Jesus said to him, "**It is as you said.** Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

- Jesus pushes the envelope: **I am the Son of God** and...

You will see Me coming on the clouds of Heaven!

- Jewish Leaders remember felt-board in Sabbath School

Daniel 7:13 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven!... **14** Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which **shall not be destroyed.**

65 Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!

- **Blasphemy?** Claiming to be God

66 What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is **deserving of death.**" 67 Then they **spat** in His face and **beat Him**; and others **struck Him** with the palms of their hands, 68 saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"

Luke 22:53b... But this is **your hour**, and the **power of darkness**.

- **Demonic Free-for-All...**
- Spit on Him/Beat Him/Struck Him blindfolded/Mocked Him

John 3:19 ... this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing **evil hates the light** and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. [Yet...]

John 3:16 ... **God so loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

- **A couple of Pharisees**, Nicodemus and Saul look on...

SUMMARY Jesus Faces the Sanhedrin

IX. Peter Denies Jesus/Weeps Bitterly

69 Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." 70 But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare/he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted

Even if all are made to stumble because of You **I will never be made to stumble**

71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." 72 But again he denied with an oath, "**I do not know the Man!**"

Even if all are made to stumble because of You **I will never be made to stumble**

73 And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." 74 Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "**I do not know the Man!**" Immediately a rooster crowed.

Even if all are made to stumble because of You **I will never be made to stumble**

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things/desperately wicked Who can know it?"

75 And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." **75** So he went out and **wept bitterly**.

- We remember the **boldness of Peter...**
 1. Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water

2. Master, we have toiled all night/caught nothing... nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net
3. See, we have left all and followed You
4. Lord, why can I not follow You now? I will lay down my life for Your sake
5. You are the Christ, the Son of the living God

Peter fell hard... Maybe you've fallen hard. Denied Jesus? Sinned greatly?

He is not finished. His mercies are new every morning...

Matthew 12:20 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory...

Psalm 18:35 He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; **you stoop down to make me great.** You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn.

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; **and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."**