

# "The Plot to Kill the King"

## Matthew 26:1-5, 14-16

Pastor Justin Bell

Intro: Being grounded - there is a much bigger picture

Thesis: The Bible teaches that God is sovereign. This means that He is in complete control of human history because He writes it. When we face this reality, we can respond in different ways and our motives are often revealed. We may respond with resisting His authority, seeking personal gain or submission to His authority which will bring great joy and abundant life.

**Subject: The Plot to Kill the King**

**Object: Yield to the Sovereign God**

### **I. The Motive of the Religious Leaders: Resisting Jesus' Authority (v.1-5)**

- V.1-2 This is one of many times that Jesus is predicting His death to His disciples (the fourth and final time in the gospel of Matthew).
- V.3-5 The plot to kill Jesus begins to unfold as we read these verses. The chief priests, scribes, elders and the high priest Caiaphas make up the local Jewish political and religious leadership over the Jewish people. They ruled subject to Roman authority. It is very clear throughout Scripture that the religious leaders felt threatened by Jesus and His authority. They did not want Jesus to take their authority and were infuriated that Jesus was attracting their people to His leadership. Thus, they devise a plan to kill Him.
- They must use "trickery" because they are walking a tight rope of having the execution approved by the Roman government and a desire to not cause a riot from the people of Israel.
- Jesus was crucified during the Passover feast and this is very critical. Jesus was the ultimate Passover lamb providing a permanent covering to all who would put their faith in Him.
- **"...Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29).**
- Additionally, the Old Testament contains numerous prophecies of Messiah being crucified (some being penned hundreds of years before crucifixion is even invented): Psalm 22:16, Zechariah 12:10, Isaiah 53:5. No man could plan this.
- One of the greatest confirmations of Jesus' deity and that the Bible is indeed God's word is this pattern throughout Scripture of God prophesying about the future and being correct.
- What was the religious leaders motive?
- **"And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people" - Luke 22:2**
- **"The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe." - Proverbs 29:25**

- When we are driven by the fear of man, we will be resistant to the authority of God. When we are driven by a healthy fear of God, we will be increasingly less affected by what people say and think about us.
- The religious leaders fear of man was a byproduct of their resistance to Jesus' authority. The Scriptures regularly contrast fearing God (submitting to His authority) with fearing man (1 Samuel 15:24, Luke 12:4-5).
- Motives, we all tend to see others who have impure motives and assume we have pure motives. Story of iPad
- Authority issues and control go hand in hand
- It's interesting to notice that these religious leaders think they are acting on their own behalf and advancing their own agenda: meanwhile they are fulfilling prophecy and advancing God's plan.
- Atheists and other groups trying to blot out Christianity - we can be comforting.
- Friedrich Nietzsche proclaimed in 1882, "God is dead." (then died 18 years later August 25, 1900)
- Discussion: what are some of the ways we resist Christ's authority?

## **II. The Motive of Judas: Self Gain (v.14-16)**

- V.14-16 These 30 pieces of silver were silver shekels. They were worth about 4 Denari, an average days wage. 30 pieces would be equivalent to 120 Denari, or 120 days of work. In Camarillo, you could say this would be about \$26,000. ("[American FactFinder](http://AmericanFactFinder.com)". [Factfinder.census.gov](http://Factfinder.census.gov). Retrieved 2013-10-03.)
- **Zechariah 11:12-13 foretells Judas' actions predicting he would betray the Messiah for 30 pieces of silver and that the money would later be used to purchase a Potter's field.**
- It is easy to look down on Judas for his betrayal. It is much more difficult to look in the mirror and see that we may not be that different than Judas.
- **"Judas heard all Christ's sermons." - Thomas Goodwin**
- **"This he 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." - John 12:6**
- Judas' expectations of reigning political Messiah. How do we react when God doesn't live up to our expectations?
- Personal - hard season of ministry: do I still trust Jesus?

## **III. The Motive of Jesus: Obedience to the Father for His Glory and Our Flourishing**

- **Right before Jesus is betrayed, he prayed, "...Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given me to do."- John 17:1b-4**

Conclusion/Communion: Jesus died for us that we could be forgiven of our sins, including our impure motives. In addition, he rose again and gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit so that our motives can be purified and we can look and live like Jesus. **"Search me O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting." - Psalm 139:23-24**