

Matthew 26 “The Betrayal of the Messiah”

Please Stand and open your Bibles to Psalm 109:1-8

Today we enter into the last part of the book of Matthew. Jesus has just finished His Olivet Discourse and is now headed to the cross. We have a lot of scripture to cover so let's jump right in....

Jesus reminds them

Matthew 26:1-2

He is again reminding them that He is not going to set up His Kingdom yet but is going to be crucified. Notice at this time He doesn't even bother to tell them He will rise again. He will in little bit. Don't we act surprised when we do something that God has already said what will happen if we do it and it happens! Don't hate on the Apostles you would have done exactly the same thing!

The Plot for Betrayal

Matthew 26:3-5

Rejection of God opens the door to the most heinous of sins. Maybe the reason the Apostles did not hear what Jesus was saying is because we fail to recognize our true sinful nature! Imagine that! The government has gathered together to conspire to kill someone. I guess it only happened this one time, right? Human nature cannot and will not change without a change of heart.

One person got it
Matthew 26:6-13

We know from John's Gospel who the ringleader of this complaint was...

John 12:4-6

But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" 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.

Notice Jesus said the poor you have with you always? Do you believe Jesus or the UN?

You * can see here that number 1 on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals is to end poverty. I am not saying that is a bad thing to want but it does show that the UN could care less about what God has to say and only what they think that man can do on its own. We just saw what man will do when he rejects God, and we will see more of it.

As we read this story, we are fulfilling bible prophecy!

The Betrayal
Matthew 26:14-16

We just saw that he was a thief, so this is just the natural progression of things. Judas is the ultimate of fakers as he fit right in with the other apostles but was never really one of them. Don't feel sorry for him. People that reject Christ have made their decision and we should share and pray with them. But people that say they are Christians but are not, are a whole different class in the bible. Judas is at this point fulfilling scripture...

Zechariah 11:12

Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.

We do not have time today to get into this, but you really need to go and take a look at all the prophecies that point to Jesus, that were fulfilled literally, and read them in their context. When you do you will be able to read Revelation and see that it will be fulfilled literally in the future!

Eating with the Enemy

Matthew 26:17-25

Matthew spends more verses on Judas than he does the Lord's Supper that we will see in a minute. The thing that should catch our eye is that Judas didn't stand out. They all thought it could have been them. Judas knew that he was but that didn't stop him. Judas had made his choice and Jesus is exposing him.

John 17:12

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. 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.

Interesting title that should perk our ears when we compare it to this...

John 13:26-27

And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

Judas is a type of the Antichrist who will again fool the Jews into believing he is on their side.

The New Covenant
Matthew 26:26-30

Our course we know what this means as we remind ourselves of it on the first Sunday of every month here at the church. It represents the new covenant of the His body broken for the forgiveness of our sins and the shed blood that provides us with the cleansing of those sins. Something the law could never do! Praise God for the New Covenant! You are probably asking yourself "What hymn did they sing?" The Jews still today sing the "Hallel" Psalms during Passover which are Psalm 113-118. I believe that verse 29 gives us a clue that it was 118. This is a messianic psalm of His two comings.

Psalm 118:25-26

Save now (Hosanna), I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peter's Denial

Matthew 26:31-35

Jesus quotes scripture that needs to be fulfilled from Zechariah 13:7 and reminds them again that He will die and rise again. Peter still doesn't get it and Jesus uses this to tell him that he will fail Him. Don't trip on it. Jesus knows and will empower him with the Holy Spirit after he comes back to Him. You would have said the same thing!

The Prayer in the Garden

Matthew 26:36-46

This is the classic place where we see the humanity of Jesus clash with His divinity. He understood the amount of suffering He was about to experience, and His flesh was weak. The point that is made here is that when he asked the Father if there was any other way we learn that there was not. Jesus had to go to the Cross.

Hebrews 5:7-8

...who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly

fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

And * don't think you are all that, if you were there you would be sleeping too!

The Arrest

Matthew 26:47-56

These that came with Judas are not Roman soldiers as some would say but the Temple guard. They were of the order that David had set in place but were under the authority of the corrupt government. This was a government conspiracy lead by the leader of the Sanhedrin. Judas came and betrayed Him with a kiss which is so like the Devil. Pretends to be your friend and then stabs them in the back! If I was Israel right now, I would not trust our government as far as they can throw them. But Jesus is allowing this to happen. Remember our study in Joshua? What man means for evil; God turns for good!

The False Trial

Matthew 26:57-68

He was brought before the ruling party and not given a fair trial. According to Moses they had to have the witnesses before the trial.

Deuteronomy 19:15

One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.

The thing is Jesus did not lie. He is the Messiah and He is God. It was their choice to not believe it. Blasphemy is when you use God's Name in vain. Jesus did not do this. They had already made their decision before they even had Him in custody. They will see Him sitting at the right hand of the Power but in judgement of them! We will deal with outcome of this next week, but we have one more person to deal with...

Peter's Denial

Matthew 26:69-75

We end with Peter warming himself by the enemy's fire and denying Christ. How did he get here? Backsliding does not happen overnight. It is a progression that we see. Just in this chapter we see him first, not watching and praying. Then we see him letting his anger get the best of him. And finally, we see Him following at a distance. You could see why he was one of them that said, "Is it me?" at the table. It always starts by drifting. He just told us...

Luke 21:34

But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

Matthew 13:22

Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

Psalms 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...

Jeremiah 17:7

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose hope is the Lord.

Stay close to Jesus!

Gospel, Stand, Pray, Song