# Lesson 26 Matthew Chapter 26:1-46 Passover Night

Life in Christ: When did you feel closest to Our Lord this week?

Predictions of the Passion

1. Over the course of many chapters, Jesus has told His disciples of His coming Passion. Now, it this chapter, it begins. After all these warnings, what is it that the disciples are missing that keeps them from understanding the truth of what is coming; something they will not receive until after the Resurrection? How do they in fact react when the moment comes?

Matthew 16:20-22

20 Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Messiah.

21 From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised.

22 Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you."

Matthew 17:22-23

22 As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men,

23 and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were overwhelmed with grief.

Matthew 20:18-19

18 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death,

19 and hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."

Matthew 26:1-2

1 When Jesus finished all these words, he said to his disciples,

2 “You know that in two days’ time it will be Passover, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

Matthew 26:31-32

31 Then Jesus said to them, "This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed';

32 but after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee."

33 Peter said to him in reply, "Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be."

Matthew 26:56

56 Then all the disciples left him and fled.

1. A. Three groups of people prepare for the death of Jesus. Compare each group’s objective, and their motivations. Look at the Exodus 21:32, Genesis 38:28, and Mark 14:5. What was the value of Jesus to each group?

Matthew 26:3-16

3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

4 and they consulted together to arrest Jesus by treachery and put him to death.

5 But they said, “Not during the festival, that there may not be a riot among the people.”

The Anointing at Bethany.

6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper,

7 woman came up to him with an alabaster jar of costly perfumed oil, and poured it on his head while he was reclining at table.

8 When the disciples saw this, they were indignant and said, “Why this waste?

9 It could have been sold for much, and the money given to the poor.”

10 Since Jesus knew this, he said to them, “Why do you make trouble for the woman? She has done a good thing for me.

11 The poor you will always have with you; but you will not always have me.

12 In pouring this perfumed oil upon my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.

13 Amen, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be spoken of, in memory of her.”

The Betrayal by Judas.

14 Then one of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests

15 and said, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver,

16 and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over.

Genesis 38:28

28 They sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. Some Midianite traders passed by, and they pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and took him to Egypt.

Exodus 21:32

32 But if it is a male or a female slave that it gores, he must pay the owner of the slave thirty shekels of silver, and the ox must be stoned.

Mark 14:5

5 It could have been sold for more than three hundred days’ wages and the money given to the poor.” They were infuriated with her.

Chief priests and the elders Woman with the oil Judas

*Motive:*

*Objective:*

*Value:*

B Jesus made a prophecy about the woman in vs 13. Has the promise come true? What goes through your mind each time you hear her story?

1. A. Comparing Jesus response to Judas’ question vs 25 and Pilates question Matthew 27:11, with the clarification John’s Gospel provides in John 18:37, what do both Jesus and Judas know?

Matthew 26:20-25

20 When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve.

21 And while they were eating, he said, “Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”\*

22 Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another, “Surely it is not I, Lord?”

23 He said in reply, “He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me.

24 The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born.”

25 Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply, “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?” He answered, “You have said so.”

Matthew 26:11

11 Now Jesus stood before the governor, and he questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus said, “You say so.”

John 18:37

37 So Pilate said to him, “Then you are a king?

B We can hide our sins from our brothers and from ourselves, but we cannot hide them from Jesus. Looking directly into the eyes of Judas, what chance is Jesus giving to him? At what point is he beyond forgiveness by Jesus?

C Two of the possibilities of Judas’ intentions toward Jesus are a) pure malice and b) force Jesus to declare Himself the political and military Messiah the zealots were anticipating. If Judas’ intentions toward Jesus were the latter, consider how Judas would have stood in utter disbelief as Jesus was arrested and taken away for trial and execution instead of calling upon His twelve legions of angels and striking out with holy bolts of lightning. How might this huge miscalculation account for his subsequent actions?

Matthew 26:47-56

47 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests and the elders of the people.

48 His betrayer had arranged a sign with them, saying, “The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him.”

49 Immediately he went over to Jesus and said, “Hail, Rabbi!” and he kissed him.

50 Jesus answered him, “Friend, do what you have come for.” Then stepping forward they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

Matthew 27:3-5

3 Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

4 saying, “I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.” They said, “What is that to us? Look to it yourself.”

5 Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself.

Passover meal

1. A. In the early part of this study we saw Jesus portrayed as a new and greater Moses. It was Moses who instituted the Passover, at God’s command among the Israelites. In the first Passover, the father acted as the priest for each family and sacrificed the lamb by pouring out its blood and smearing it on the wood of the doorway? After the incident of the golden calf at Sinai, priestly duties of sacrifice where given to the Levites. The first written account of the institution of the Eucharistic Sacrament was by St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians. St Paul was not present at the Last Supper. Who is his source for this description?

Exodus 12:21

21 Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and procure lambs for your families, and slaughter the Passover victims.

1 Corinthians 11:23-25

23 For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread,

24 and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

25In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

27 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord.

B St Paul’s presentation of the Lord’s words, “Do this in remembrance of me.” is a clear institution of the priestly functions, now given to His Apostles. If the Last Supper is the ordination of the Apostles as priests, and the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, what does that say about the origin and continuation of the priesthood to this day?

C At the last Supper, who has “eaten the bread and drunk the cup of the Lord unworthily” and would “truly have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord?” See vs 27.

D If we partake of the Eucharist while in a state of mortal sin, in whose seat do we sit at the Last Supper?

E As part of the Passover celebration to this day, a child is to ask the father why this night is different from every other night. The required response comes from Exodus 13:8 and was explained by the rabbis that every man must consider that he, himself had been brought out of Egypt by the Lord. How does this help explain how Catholics can celebrate the Eucharist every day and not be re-crucifying the Lord?

Exodus 13:8

8 And on that day you will explain to your son, ‘This is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.’