

Matthew 26:1-16

- **REJECTION OF THE KING - Matthew 19-25**

- o The Fig Tree...

- After Jesus explained to the DISCIPLES what would take place at the END...
- The Abomination of Desolation - the Tribulation - and Return of Jesus Christ...
- He gave them the PARABLE of the Fig Tree - to tell them when it would all START...
- When the Fig Tree [Israel] - blossoms [come back to life] - the end is near...
- In that GENERATION [100 years] - all things will come to pass...
- But we do NOT know the day or hour [thief in the night] - so be READY!

- o Sheep and Goats...

- When Jesus RETURNS [second coming] with the armies of Heaven [all the saints and angels]
- 1260 days after the Abomination of Desolation - the Battle of Armageddon...
- He will sit on his THRONE in Jerusalem - and Judge the NATIONS [who gets to enter His Kingdom]
- He will separate the SHEEP from the GOATS - they look the same...
- What distinguished them is their actions - SHEEP are selfless - and GOATS are selfish...
- SHEEP will enter into the Millennial Kingdom - GOATS will be sent to the Lake of Fire!

- **1ST - PREPARING HIS DISCIPLES... vs. 1-5**

- o 1st - The Passover... vs. 1-2

- Finished... vs. 1
 - Now it came to pass when Jesus had finished all these sayings!
 - The phrase FINISHED [τετέω] these saying [λόγος] – is used THREE times in Matthew:
 - After the completing the Sermon on the Mount - **Matthew 7:28**
 - After completing His ministry in the Galilee – **Matthew 19:1**
 - After completing His preparation for the cross in Judea - **Matthew 26:1**
 - We have come to the END of the THIRD section of the book of MATTHEW...
 - We now come into the FINAL portion – the RESURRECTION of the KING!
- Pesach... vs. 1-2
 - [Jesus] said to His disciples: You know that after two days is the Passover!
 - Jesus told the Disciples they were TWO days from the PASSOVER...
 - PASSOVER [29 - [πάσχα in NT - this is the FIRST time the word is used in NT!]
 - Israel had been in captivity to Egypt – slaves for 400 years - **Genesis 15:13**
 - God sent Moses to deliver them from the Pharaoh – bring them out of bondage...
 - God sent TEN plagues on the Egyptians – ending with the DEATH Angel [first born]
 - Anyone could be spared – IF – they put the blood of a LAMB on their doors...
 - Then the DEATH Angel would PASS over them and they would be saved...
 - It was through the PASSOVER God brought His people out of slavery...
 - The feast of PASSOVER has been celebrated every year since [over 3000 years]
 - **John 1:29**– “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said: Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”
 - Jesus is the PASSOVER Lamb – it is through His death sin PASSES over us...
 - We are set FREE from the bondage of sin – no longer a SLAVE to this world!
- Crucified... vs. 2
 - The Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified!
 - For the THIRD time Jesus told His DISCIPLES - **Matthew 16:21** - **Matthew 20:17**
 - He would be BETRAYED [απαδίδωμι] - and CRUCIFIED [σταυρώω]
 - The timeline of the PASSION week can be confusing!

- [Sunday] the Triumphal Entry was FOUR days [10 Nisan] before the cross - **Exodus 12:3**
- [Monday] THREE days [11 Nisan] before the cross Jesus returned to the Temple...
- Where in the morning He was CONFRONTED by the Pharisees - Sadducees - and Lawyers...
- Then at night He gave His Disciples the teaching on the END times on the Mount of Olives...
- [Wednesday] TWO days later [13 Nisan] Jesus PREPARED for the cross - Mark 14:1
- It is important to remember that Jews count a day from EVENING to MORNING - **Genesis 1:5**
- So that NIGHT [14 Nisan] Jesus had the LAST supper on PASSOVER...
- [Thursday] the following morning [still 14 Nisan] He was Crucified...
- [Sunday] THREE days later [14 Nisan] - He was RESURRECTED!

o 2nd - Jesus must die... vs. 3-5

- The High Priest... vs. 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!
 - The LEADERS of Israel - CHIEF priest - SCRIBES - and ELDERS [Pharisees and Sadducees]
 - All gathered together in the courtyard [αὐλή] of the HIGH Priest CAIAPHAS [Καϊάφας]
 - The role of the HIGH priest was passed down from Aaron - **Exodus 29:9**
 - Yet CAIAPHAS had been appointed to the role by a Roman governor [Valerius Gratus]
 - It had become a POLITICAL position - rather than a SPIRITUAL one!
- The Plot... vs. 4
 - [They] plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him!
 - The purpose for their MEETING - how to CAREFULLY [δόλος] capture and KILL Jesus!
 - What is NOT recorded for us in Matthew - is the RESURRECTION of Lazarus - **John 11:44**
 - It took place just DAYS before the PASSOVER - and ALL of Jerusalem was talking about it...
 - With up to TWO million pilgrims coming for the CELEBRATION [Josephus]
 - They realized if they did not do something - everyone would FOLLOW Jesus...
 - And the LEADERS feared the Romans would blame them for NOT stopping Him...
 - CAIAPHAS said: it is better for ONE man to die - then the NATION be destroyed - **John 11:50**
 - Yet the very thing CAIAPHAS wanted to do - was the PLAN of God...
 - ONE man would DIE - so that EVERYONE else could be SAVED - **John 3:16**
- Not on Passover... vs. 5
 - They said: Not during the feast lest there be an uproar among the people!
 - They did NOT want to KILL Jesus during the PASSOVER...
 - Because they FEARED the people - who believed Jesus was sent from God - **Luke 22:2**
 - Therefore - it would be much WISER to wait until the people had gone HOME...
 - Then they could arrest Jesus QUIETLY - without making a scene!
 - But in spite of what they WANTED - Jesus WAS crucified on PASSOVER...
 - The reason is because they were NOT in control - Jesus was!
 - **John 10:18** - "No one takes [my life] from Me - but I lay it down of Myself."
 - Men make their plans - they may have nothing but EVIL intentions...
 - They will SAY what they want - and DO what they want...
 - But in the END God is in control - and He makes things happen according to His will...
 - Meaning we get to rest and trust - because we are on the WINNING side!
 - **Ephesians 1:11** - "[God] works all things according to the counsel of His will."

● 2ND - PREPARING HIS BURIAL... vs. 6-13

o 1st - Alabaster Box... vs. 6-7

- In Bethany... vs. 6
 - When Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper!
 - BETHANY - house [בֵּית] of the HUMBLE [עֲנִי]

- Was a small village about THREE kilometers from Jerusalem...
- It was ALSO the home of Mary - Martha - and Lazarus - **John 11:1**
- Jesus had made it His base while in Jerusalem - **Matthew 21:17**
- And was in the HOME of a man named SIMON [Σίμων]
- We do NOT know who this was [common name] - only that he had been healed of LEPROSY!
- Spikenard...
 - A woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil.
 - She poured it on His head as He sat *at the table*!
 - A woman came to Jesus - we do NOT know her name...
 - She came with an ALABASTER [ἀλάβαστρον] box filled with SPIKENARD - **Mark 14:3**
 - SPIKENARD [νάρδος] - is a valuable perfume [India] worth a YEARS wage - **Mark 14:5**
 - And she POURED it on Jesus head - while He was sitting!
 - This is one of THREE similar accounts found in the New Testament...
 - FIRST - a woman [sinner] came to Jesus in the house of SIMON the Pharisee - **Luke 7:37**
 - SECOND - Mary [sister of Lazarus] came to Jesus in Bethany BEFORE the Triumphal Entry...
 - But she did NOT anoint His head - she poured the oil on His feet - **John 12:3**
 - THIRD - This unnamed woman came poured SPIKENARD on Jesus head!
- o 2nd - Complaining... vs. 8-9
 - Judas Iscariot... vs. 8
 - When His disciples saw it - they were indignant saying: Why this waste?
 - The DISCIPLES were VERY unhappy [in pain]
 - Asking WHY was this VERY expensive perfume WASTED [ἀπώλεια]
 - When MARY had poured out her SPIKENARD just a few days earlier...
 - There was only ONE who had complained - it was JUDAS - **John 12:5**
 - And it seems VERY likely he was the CHIEF complainer again!
 - Not for the poor... vs. 9
 - For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor!
 - The justification was the SPIKENARD could [imperfect] have been sold of a LOT of money...
 - Then that MONEY could have been used for the POOR!
 - **John 12:6** - "Not that [Judas] 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."
 - No doubt Jesus KNEW that Judas was a THIEF - so WHY give him the MONEY box...
 - I have to think because God does NOT care about the MONEY...
 - If that is what Judas wanted - he was welcome to have it...
 - But how sad to think with Jesus in right front of him - he chose money instead!
- o 3rd - Worshiping... vs. 10-13
 - Do not trouble... vs. 10
 - 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!
 - Jesus KNEW [γινώσκω] what was in the DISCIPLES heart [NOT concern for the poor]
 - So He QUESTIONED them - WHY were they attacking [present] this woman...
 - What she had done for Him was GOOD [καλός]!
 - We know how to frame our WORDS so that what we say seems RIGHT [help the poor]
 - Yet our words often do NOT reflect our true MOTIVES...
 - We need to remember that we CANNOT fool God - He sees the heart...
 - And He will hold us accountable not just for our ACTIONS - but our MOTIVES - **Hebrews 4:13**
 - Anointed.. vs. 11-12
 - For you have the poor with you always - but Me you do not have always.

- For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body she did it for My burial!
- The POOR would always [πάντοτε] be there - Jesus would NOT be...
- His time was coming to an END - in only 43 days He would return to HEAVEN - **Acts 1:3**
- And this woman was ANOINTING His body for His BURIAL the next day!
- In Biblical times - the Jews did NOT embalm their dead...
- As a result - the bodies would quickly start to SMELL - **John 11:39**
- This is also why the women brought SPICES on Sunday morning - **Luke 24:1**
- Getting the Message...
 - This means this woman UNDERSTOOD what all the DISCIPLES had missed...
 - Jesus had come to DIE - He was heading to the CROSS...
 - WHY did she get what EVERYONE else did NOT...
 - Because she was not caught up in the desire for money [gave away a years wage]
 - She was NOT concerned about what others said [attacked by the disciples]
 - She understood that nothing was more important than Jesus!
 - What is it that we hold as the most important thing in life...
 - Are we seeking MONEY - are we looking for ACCEPTANCE...
 - If we do - then more than likely we do NOT understand what God is doing...
 - But if we CHOSE to put Jesus FIRST before anything else...
 - That is when everything becomes clear - and see what God is doing!
 - **Romans 12:2** - "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind - that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
- Remembered... vs. 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!
 - AMEN [ἀμήν] - what this woman did became PART of the GOSPEL [εὐαγγέλιον]
 - Because to this day - everywhere the GOSPEL is preached - she is still REMEMBERED!
 - Many people try to leave their MARK – they want their names to be remembered...
 - Yet memorials crumble – plaques fade away – donations are forgotten...
 - But not what this woman did – we still talk about TWO thousand years later!
 - The things we do for ourselves – the praise of men – are ALL forgotten...
 - It is the things we do for the Lord that last forever – **Matthew 6:20**
- **3RD - PREPARING HIS BETRAYAL... vs. 14-16**
 - o 1st - The motive... vs. 14
 - Then one of the twelve - called Judas Iscariot - went to the chief priests!
 - One of the TWELVE [disciples] - Judas ISCARIOT...
 - ISCARIOT - meaning MAN [אִישׁ] of the CITY [קִרְיֹת]
 - Went to the CHIEF priest - who were also looking for way to ARREST Jesus!
 - Perhaps Judas was frustrated by the WASTE of the SPIKENARD...
 - He saw that he could NOT profit from Jesus – so he went looking elsewhere...
 - His motive had NEVER been to know God – serve the Lord – he was after the MONEY!
 - WHAT is our MOTIVE for coming to church – WHY do we want to follow Jesus...
 - Are we only here to see what we can get from the Lord...
 - Thinking that we can PROFIT from God – what happens when we find we CANNOT...
 - The message of the Gospel of Jesus is NOT about what we can get in this life...
 - God does NOT promise us wealth in this WORLD – He promises us HEAVEN!
 - o 2nd - The price... vs. 15-16
 - Thirty pieces... vs. 15
 - [Judas] said: What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?

- And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver!
- Judas asked the PRIEST - what would they give him for BETRAYING [απαδίδωμι] Jesus...
- They AGREED to give him THIRTY pieces of SILVER [ἀργύριον]
- The PRICE that was paid for a GORED servant - **Exodus 21:32**
- There is some debate over how much this was worth...
- Depending on WHICH silver coin [Ptolemaic tetradrachms or Tyrian shekel]
- The value would have been between 6k Pesos [\$100] and 22k pesos [\$380]
- And Judas did NOT even get to keep that - he gave it back - **Matthew 27:5**
- What do we think is worth more than living for Jesus...
- TEN billion pesos – to be PRESIDENT – a famous MOVIE star...
- Even those are nothing compared to what we would give up...
- The best this world has to offer – ONLY last only a FEW years [then we give it back]
- Why do we sell ourselves short - when what Jesus has in store for us is eternal!
- The opportunity... vs. 16
 - So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him!
 - Satan would ENTER Judas - **Luke 22:3**
 - From then on Judas looked [imperfect] for a GOOD [εὖ] time [καιρός] to BETRAY Jesus...
 - And it would NOT take long - only a few HOURS later [Garden of Gethsemane]
 - But the BETRAYAL was NOT a surprise – Jesus knew it when He chose Judas...
 - The betrayal – down to THIRTY pieces of silver – was all prophesied!
 - **Zechariah 11:12** - “They weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.”
 - WHY did Jesus keep Judas around – WHY allow him to betray Him...
 - To give him the CHANCE to change – the chance to become like the woman who gave it all!
 - If we are like Judas today – the Lord knows our hearts...
 - If we are caught up in the cares of this world – only looking for what we can get...
 - Jesus patiently WAITS hoping we will see – life is far more than fame or money...
 - He wants us to realize that what matter most is giving ALL to Him...
 - Because true life – eternal life – is simply knowing Jesus - **John 17:3**