

MATTHEW 26:

vs. 1- 5:

On the Wednesday prior to Jesus' crucifixion, He tells the disciples that He will be handed over to be crucified. Meanwhile, the Chief priests and elders of the people meet at Caiaphas' palace (see Chart 10, #3 for an approximate location) to determine how they can arrest Him quietly, so as not to cause an uproar among His followers.

vs. 6-13:

Jesus returned to Bethany (about 2 miles east of Jerusalem) and was in the house of Simon the Leper. A woman came and anointed His head with very expensive perfume. Judas Iscariot primarily (see John 12:3-6) complained, suggesting that the perfume have might better been sold and the proceeds given to the poor. Jesus silenced the disciples and explained how she had prepared His body for burial (later there would not be adequate time to prepare the body for burial (later there approaching Sabbath)). He also stated that what she did, could only be done in a short period of time, whereas they could minister to the poor on many an occasion.

vs. 14-16:

Judas Iscariot then went to the chief priests and agreed to find an opportune time (while Jesus was away from the crowds) to turn Jesus over to them. The price was 30 pieces of silver.

vs. 17-30:

Jesus had His disciples make arrangements to celebrate the Passover (Feast of Unleavened Bread another name for the same 1 week period. During the Passover 2 lambs were taken: 1 slain as sacrifice for sins, the other was led away into the fields, portraying the carrying away of the sins of the people).

Jesus, while reclining at the table as customary, announced that one would betray Him, showing through a sign that Judas Iscariot would be the one.

Jesus then instituted what is now known as the "Lord's Supper" or "Communion". By the partaking of the bread and cup they would remember that He gave His life (the Lamb of God being sacrificed, just like the Passover Lamb) so that man could find forgiveness. He then informed them that He would not partake again until after the judgement.

Jesus and His disciples then sang a hymn and went to the Mount of Olives (East of Jerusalem a little ways).

vs. 31-35:

Jesus announced to His disciples that He would die and then be resurrected. He told them that He would see them again in Galilee, following His resurrection. Peter denied that this would take place and was informed by Jesus that he would deny the Lord 3 times before morning.

vs. 36-46:

Jesus then arrived at the Garden of Gethsemane and took Peter, James and John with Him a little further. He asked for them to watch with Him while He went on and prayed. Jesus then prayed 3 times asking God for there to be another way to redeem man, but that most importantly, that God's will would be done. After each time He returned to the 3 and found them sleeping. On the last time He awoke them so that they could go with Him to witness the betrayal.

COMMENTARY

MATTHEW 26 continued:

vs. 47-56:

Judas Iscariot arrived with a band of men to arrest Jesus. He used a kiss for Jesus as the signal that Jesus was the one to take. When the band took Jesus, Peter cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest (see John 18:10). Jesus rebuked Peter and then informed all who were present, that what was taking place was the fulfillment of prophecy.

vs. 57-68:

Jesus was taken to Caiaphas the High Priest to be tried. After trying to build a case they finally took Jesus' claim to be the Son of God as blasphemy (even though it was not blasphemy, but the truth). They then decided to put Him to death and proceeded to abuse Him (under Roman Law, they would not be allowed to have Him killed with the charge of blasphemy)

vs. 69-75:

Peter twice denied being a disciple of Jesus when confronted by servant girls and finally disclaimed Jesus when confronted by a group. Then the rooster crowed and Peter realized what he had done and went out and wept.

STUDY GUIDE

MATTHEW 26:

1. What did the chief priests and elders of the people assemble in the palace of the high priest to do?
2. What did a woman do, at the house of Simon the Leper?
3. What did the chief priests give Judas Isacariot, for turning Jesus over to them?
4. What did Jesus say, one of His disciples would do? (see vs. 21)
5. What did Jesus say about the bread and the cup?
6. What did Jesus say Peter would do, before the rooster crowed?
7. What was Jesus' prayer in the garden?
8. Who came to the garden with Judas?
9. What did one of Jesus' companions do? (see vs 51)
10. What were the chief priests and Sanhedrin looking for?
11. What did they do to Jesus (see vs 67) after He admitted to being the Christ, the Son of God?
12. How did Peter react, after the rooster crowed?

BONUS:

1. What is the significance of the bread and cup to Christians?
2. What is your impression of the religious leaders. Do you ever see Christians behaving like that?
3. Do Christians make the same mistake that Judas Iscariot and Peter made? Explain.