

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

DEC 5TH-6TH, 2020 // BOOK OF MATTHEW

## MURDEROUS (MATTHEW 26:1-5)

### MATTHEW HAS BEEN BUILDING A CASE

Up to this point in the Book of Matthew, Matt has been building a case for Jesus' identity. Now that he has established that, he goes on to tell us of His death and victorious resurrection.

- The massive Passover festival that celebrated the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt started that Thursday, the same day Jesus would be arrested.

### THE TIMING IS VERY IMPORTANT

Passover remembers when the Israelites sacrificed a lamb in order to be saved and delivered from death and slavery. **Jesus, being the ultimate sacrifice, would do the same for all of humanity on the Cross.**

- The disciples were probably mortified by the thought of Jesus dying in such a disgraceful manner.

### "THEY CONSPIRED"

The religious leaders didn't just disagree with Jesus, but they grew to hate Him so much that they wanted to "arrest Jesus in a treacherous way and kill Him."

- The religious community **feared losing control, losing an argument, and not being the center of attention. Do we find ourselves falling into similar traps?**

### JESUS WAS ALWAYS IN CONTROL

Though Caiaphas and the other leaders conspired to kill Jesus without the crowd rebelling, the whole scenario was in the hands of God.

- **The leaders thought they were in control, but Jesus was orchestrating the whole thing.** Jesus was purposefully killed during Passover to replace the old sacrifice for the perfect new One.

## ANOINTING (MATTHEW 26:6-16)

### STAYING JUST OUT OF TOWN

Bethany was just a couple miles outside of Jerusalem. Simon the Leper was apparently one of the hundreds of people Jesus had healed who had also become a friend.

- While relaxing and eating, "a woman approached Him with an alabaster jar of perfume" and "poured it on His head." This was probably Mary Magdalene.

### WHAT'S UP WITH THE PERFUME ON THE HEAD?

The perfume that Mary used was from the east and worth a year's salary. The Romans used similar oils to anoint Caesars, and the Jews in the OT to anoint kings.

- **Mary knew Who Jesus was, the anointed King and sacrificial Savior of the world. She was willing to give her best, because she understood Jesus' identity.**

### "WHY THIS WASTE?"

Jesus just taught His disciples about caring for the poor, so the use of such lavish resources instead of selling them for community service purposes appalled them.

- The mistake the 12 made is that they got their priorities backwards. **Jesus should receive our best first, then we are to bless people around us.**

### JESUS SETTING HIS FOLLOWERS STRAIGHT

The disciples must have scolded Mary because Jesus rebukes them for "bothering" her. Again the issue was priorities and timing.

- **It is not only how we use the resources of the kingdom, but when we use them.** There is a time to learn, a time to praise God, and a time to use our resources for His glory.

### HOW DO WE REACT TO GIVING IT ALL?

In Jesus' time, when a body was buried it was wrapped in layers of cloth and perfumes were sprinkled between the layers. Jesus told the 12 that Mary was preparing Him for His death.

- Mary's dedication would impact Christians for 1000's of years. **Our willingness to lay it all down for Christ also impacts more lives than we realize. Are we giving it all?**

### "THEN, ONE OF THE TWELVE..."

There are 3 reasons as to why Judas betrayed Jesus. First, he probably **never believed Jesus was God.** Second, he **had never built a relationship with Jesus.** Third, he was **greedy and selfish.**

- We must ask, **"Do I know Who Jesus is? Do I have a relationship with Him? Or, am I only thinking about myself?"**

## BETRAYAL (MATTHEW 26:17-25)

### A CELEBRATION WITH CLOSE FRIENDS

The "first day of Unleavened Bread" is another way to say Passover. All of the food made during this holiday had no yeast in it. This was to remind the people of the rapid exodus from Egypt.

- Jesus sent the 12 to find "a certain man" that would provide a place for them to celebrate Passover. Again we see Jesus' sovereignty.

### "MY TIME IS NEAR..."

Jesus tells His disciples to relay the message to the man that His "time is near," meaning the completion of Jesus objective to give His life for humanity is very close.

- Step back and think about what Matt is writing. **Jesus is willingly making all the arrangements for years for His own murder and resurrection.**

### AND THE PLOT THICKENS

Not only is Jesus telling His disciples He is going to be arrested and killed, but one of them will be the one to sell Him out to the authorities. Of course the 11 were shocked and said, "Surely not I Lord?"

- **The shock was less about who it was and more about the fact that Jesus, the loving Savior, would be betrayed at all.**

### "WOE TO THAT MAN..."

**We often think of the caring gentle Jesus, but He is also the authoritative King,** and it is amazing that one would have the guts to stab Him in the back. Jesus even goes so far to say, "It would be better...if he had not been born."

- **All of us have betrayed Jesus, but it is the one that fails to eventually realize it that is destined for catastrophe.**

### THERE'S NO WAY! OR, MAYBE THERE IS?

When I read v25, I think there is no way Judas believed Jesus was God because of the blatant arrogance and defiance. But, then I think of how often I've acted this way, knowing exactly Who Jesus is.

- **Do we know our place in relation to God? Are we humble and submitted? Do we have a fear of the Lord?**

## THE LORD'S SUPPER (MATTHEW 26:26-30)

### THE LORD'S SUPPER

Originally communion (the Lord's Supper) was a full meal over several hours. Of course, as the Christian community grew, the method had to change in order to accommodate the people, but the importance is still the same.

- **The Last Supper was the beginning of a shift from celebrating Passover to celebrating the sacrifice of Jesus.**

### "...THIS IS MY BODY...THIS IS MY BLOOD"

The bread we eat and the wine we drink when taking communion is not literally Jesus' body and blood (transubstantiation), but the Holy Spirit is present in the symbolic act of remembering Jesus' sacrifice (consubstantiation).

- **The point is the reverence and remembrance of how much God loves us and what He has done for us.**

### "...FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS"

Communion is a tangible reminder about a real physical event that forever reshaped the state of the human soul and eternity. **The blood Jesus shed on the cross offers us forgiveness, a relationship with God, and eternal life in perfection.**

- **We activate this gift through repentance and obedience.**

## WE WILL DO THIS AGAIN IN PARADISE

Jesus tells His disciples to continue taking communion in remembrance of Him, but that He will not be physically present until the great celebration in His "Father's kingdom."

- **This is the heart of Jesus; to sit and celebrate, laugh, and enjoy time together. He loves us, and longs to be with us.**

## WE HAVE ALL BETRAYED JESUS

- Every one of us has sinned, been selfish, fallen short of our potential, and even betrayed the Creator.
- The crazy thing about Jesus is that **He loves us regardless of what we've done.** He knows us completely, and still loves us fully. He longs to be with us in a perfect place forever.

## WE HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY

- If we are searching for **value and purpose**, Jesus offers this in a relationship with Him.
- We can have **forgiveness** of the evil we have done and **freedom** from the sins that drive us to hopelessness.
- We can find **direction, peace, security, hope, joy, and love** in following Jesus and remembering His sacrifice for us.

## WE HAVE TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP

- Will we choose to humble ourselves and ask God to forgive us?
- Will we choose to walk away from evil and repent when we make mistakes?
- Will we choose to be obedient to God's Word?
- Will we find solace in His work, or keep failing to find it in ours?