

“THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST”
CMBC BIBLE STUDY ASSIGNMENT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023
READ MATTHEW CHAPTER 26:1-35

Please read Matthew Chapter 26:1-35 and answer these seven (7) questions:

1. What is meant by the term, “The Passion of Christ?”

ANSWER: The term the Passion of Christ refers to the suffering that Jesus the Christ went through during his betrayal, denial, beating, and crucifixion. The term is from Acts 1:3 in KJV:

To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

2. Please read the four perspectives on the preparations for the killing of Jesus found in Matthew 26:1-2, 3-5, 6-13, 14-16 and identify who is speaking in each perspective and what are they doing and what it means to you.

ANSWER: There are four voices and diverse perspectives about the killing of Jesus in these verses at the beginning of Matthew Chapter 26, and they are:

(1) In Matthew 26:1-2, we hear the voice of Jesus looking back at Matthew Chapters 24 and 25 and then predicting his own death

(2) In Matthew 26:3-5, we see and hear the religious elite (like the Christian Pharisees and so-called right-wing evangelists of today) enter a conspiracy to have Jesus killed and put a contract on his life!

(3) In Matthew 26:6-13 we have a female disciple who is both prophet and priest in place of the religious elite who don't act like prophets or priests. This woman, without a name, shows Jesus great care and respect by anointing him with very expensive perfume. Either she is a wealthy woman or saved her little until it became much for this time to use it now! She is prophet because she preaches not just with words but with actions that declare Jesus the king of kings! Her pouring of the perfume on Jesus shows her as priest who anoints Jesus as the king and also shows she believes that Jesus will be crucified!

(4) In Matthew 26:14-16 we have the voice of Judas Iscariot who asked the chief priests (leading priests) how much they would pay him to betray Jesus and the leading priests paid him 30 pieces of silver. Jesus had two disciples named Judas and whenever they are listed Judas the betrayer is always Judas Iscariot.

3. Please read Matthew 26:17-35 and tell us why is this scene called Last Supper?

ANSWER: This was the last meal Jesus would eat with his disciples and others who made up his “household.” This meal was used to celebrate the liberation of the Hebrews from their enslavement to the Egyptians. This was Jesus’ last Passover meal and thus his Last Supper.

4. In Matthew 26:17-19: what happened, why did it happen and what did it mean?

ANSWER: Jesus sent his disciples to make preparation for the Passover meal. Look at Matthew 26:2. It meant that the time of Jesus’ lynching was near!

5. In Matthew 26:20-25: what happened, why did it happen and what did it mean?

ANSWER: Here Jesus and the twelve disciples sat to eat the Passover meal. It happened because as Jews they had to have the Passover meal together and Jesus also used this last meal together to show betrayal by Judas and all the disciples and the breaking up of their community.

6. In Matthew 26:26-29, what happened, why did it happen and what did it mean?

ANSWER: This was when Jesus changed this meal from the Last Supper to the Lord’s Supper. After betrayal and brokenness comes new hope through Christ to restore the relationship with God and institute a new way to remember our relationship with Jesus as liberator and our sacrificial lamb!

7. In Matthew 26:30-35, what happened, why did it happen and what did it mean?

ANSWER: In Verse 30 it says they sang a hymn and every First Sunday at the end communion Pastor Rivers reminds us that the "hymn" they sang was prob the last probably part of the Hallel which came from Psalms 115-118. In the hymn Jesus as the leader would sing the lines, and his followers would respond with "Hallelujah!"

In verse 31 Jesus says ALL of his disciples would desert him and then quotes Zechariah 13:7 and predicts that as his sheep and disciples they will all be scattered.

In verses 33-35 we find some of the best-known scriptures in the entire Bible when Peter boasts that he would NEVER desert Jesus and Jesus tells Peter not only would he desert him, but Peter would deny him three times "before the rooster crows." And Peter said loud and proud that he would be Jesus' ride or die and of course we know Peter failed terribly and DID deny even knowing Jesus three times before the rooster did crow. Please note that in Palestine it was usual for roosters to crow about 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 A. M., so the Romans gave the term "cock-crow" to the watch from 12:00 to 3:00 A. M. So, despite Peter's claims of undying loyalty, Jesus says that Peter is within hours of "disowning" him three times.

One important truth often overlooked and not preached or discussed is that Peter was NOT the only disciple to promise NOT to deny Jesus because Verse 35 says that ALL of the other disciples promised the same thing!