

SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS

Jesus Betrayed and Abandoned Matthew 26:1-46

*“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me.
Yet not as I will, but as you will.” Matthew 26:39b*

Day 1: Read Matthew 26:1-16.

1. The Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of the Passover were celebrated together to commemorate the escape of Israel out of Egypt. How were the Israelites to celebrate these feasts? (Deut. 16:1-8)

2. All his life Jesus has soaked up the scriptures. What has he learned from them about what must happen to him? (Ps. 22:1-2, 7, 12-18; Isa. 52:13-14; 53:3-12)

3. The religious authorities have become increasingly agitated with Jesus. (21:15, 45-46)
 - a. Who initiates the plot to kill Jesus? (vv. 3-4)

 - b. Why are they afraid to arrest Jesus during the day while he is out in public?

 - c. How does Judas play into their hands? (vv.4, 14-16)

4. What does the woman in verses 6-13 understand that the disciples don't?

How has Jesus' prophecy about her been fulfilled?

Day 2: Read Matthew 26:17-35.

5. The Passover is normally a joyful family celebration. What is on Jesus' mind that is dampening the evening's mood? (vv. 20-25; 31-35; *  Jn. 13: 21; Ps. 41: 5-9)

6. Where do you think Judas was sitting during this meal? What do you learn about him from the way he behaves?

7. What is the new meaning that Jesus gives to the bread and wine normally served at the Passover meal? (vv. 26-29)

8. Why do Christians continue to eat this meal together? (v. 28; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

* The  symbol identifies verses for further study.

9. What does eating the Lord's Supper mean to you?

Day 3: Read Matthew 26: 30-35.

10. Jesus, like a good and caring shepherd, is concerned for his sheep. He knows that his coming ordeal will be too much for them, and like frightened sheep they will all panic and run. (v. 31)
What are the two things Jesus tells the disciples in verse 32, and why are they so significant?
(Mt. 28: 5-7, 20; Jn. 16:21-22;  compare verse 31 with Ezk. 34:11-12, 15-16, 23-24)

11. Peter's desires and intentions are good but what does he still not understand?

Day 4: Read Matthew 26:36-46.

12. Why are the disciples so sleepy? (v. 41b; Lk. 22:45)

Why should they be praying fervently? (vv. 31-35, 41, 45)

13. Why is prayer so important when we are struggling? (Ps. 46; Phil. 4:6-7)

14. List the names of some people that you know, who are going through their own "Gethsemane". After studying this passage, how will your prayers for them be different?

Day 5: Read Matthew 26:36-46.

15. How is Jesus' sorrow described? (v. 37)

What is he struggling with?

How does the writer of Hebrews further enlighten us about Jesus' suffering? (Heb. 2:17-18; 4:15)

16. What is the difference between the cup that Jesus gives the disciples (vv. 27-28) and the cup that he must drink? (vv.39, 42;  1 Cor. 10:16; Isa. 51:17)

17. Look back over this lesson. What is it about Jesus — who he is and what he does — that you are thankful for? ( Psalm 118:26-29)