

## SITTING AT THE FEET OF JESUS

Betrayed, Deserted, Disowned      Matthew 26:47–27:26

*“But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.”*    Matthew 26:56 (NIV)

**Days 1 and 2: Read Matthew 26:47-68.**

1. Judas comes with the mob to betray Jesus. How is this consistent with his character? (26:14-16; Jn. 6:70-71; 12:4-6)
  
2. Why does Jesus forbid his disciples to fight for him? (vv. 52-54; Jn. 18:10-11, 36)
  
3. Jesus is taken to be questioned by the top religious leaders. What are they looking for? Why? (v. 59)

Did they find what they were looking for? (v. 60; 1 Pet. 2:22-23)

4. The high priest zeroes in on the central issue that everyone must consider regarding Jesus.
  - a. What is it? (v. 63)
  
  - b. After being silent to all the false accusations, Jesus finally speaks. What does he say about himself?
  
  - c. How has acknowledging this truth made a difference in your life?
  
5. How do Caiaphas, the high priest, and the rest of the council respond? (vv. 65-68)

Why? (Jn. 5:18, 19:7; \* Lev. 24:10-16)

**Day 3: Read Matthew 26:69-75.**

6. Describe Peter when:

Jesus predicts that he will betray him	31-35	
Jesus is praying in the garden	40-46	
Jesus is arrested	51-52; Jn. 18:10	
Jesus is being tried	57-58	
He is identified as a disciple	69-74	
He realizes what he's done	75	

\*The  symbol identifies verses for further study.

7. Peter has failed his Lord miserably. How would you advise a friend who has failed like Peter?
  
8. All four gospel writers record Peter's denial of Jesus yet this is not the end of the story for Peter. Fast forward 30 years; what has Peter grown to understand about suffering for being a follower of Jesus? (1 Pet. 4:12-16, 19)

**Day 4: Read Matthew 27:1-10.**

9. Why do the chief priests and elders bring Jesus to Pilate? (vv. 1, 18; Jn. 18:31)
  
10. How do Judas' and Peter's responses to their sin differ? (26:75; 27:3-5; 2 Cor. 7:10)
  
11. How are the priests focusing on one area of obeying God while clearly sinning in a bigger area? (v. 6;  Mt. 23:23-24; Jn. 18:28)
  
12. In what ways have you been convicted of this type of hypocrisy?

**Day 5: Read Matthew 27:11-26.**

13. How is Pilate's response to Jesus different from the religious leaders'?
  
14. Now it is the people's chance to make a decision about Jesus.
  - a. Who are they being influenced by?
  
  - b. What do they decide?
  
  - c. What responsibility are they willing to bear for their decision? (v. 25)
  
  - d. Is there any hope for those who commit such high-handed treason against God's anointed one? (Acts 3:13-15, 17-20)
  
15. Recount some of the sorrows that Jesus, the "Man of Sorrows" (Isa. 53:3) faced in these final hours before his death (26:36-27:26). Take time to respond to what Jesus has endured for you.