

## Matthew ch 26 vs 14- 46

Matthew is giving us an account in Matt 26 and a portion of ch 27 of the events that took place over the course of the last few days to a week or so of the life of Jesus just prior to the cross. and How that even though it may *appear* that Jesus is at probably the weakest and most vulnerable point in His earthly life, we are to be assured that in reality it's Jesus, not His enemies who are in control. and That it's Jesus who's orchestrating the whole event so that He would in fact die as the Passover Lamb of God as it had been foreordained from before the foundations of the earth.

We took the time last week to isolate the 1<sup>st</sup> 13 vs of Matt 26 in order to take the time to learn some valuable lessons from a godly lady, that being Mary the sister of Martha. and I'm not going to take a lot of time to review that simply because there's so much text left to cover in this chapter. But I would encourage you to snag a copy of that tape if you weren't here because we expounded on 6 different points that we can glean from this simple passage that was included in the gospel accounts as a memorial to her. Because every time that we see Mary the sister of Martha mentioned it's at the feet of Jesus, and it was to the feet of Jesus that she received His blessing. It was to His feet that she brought her burdens, and it was at His feet that she gave her best in worship and adoration of Him. and In regards to her act of worship we learned 3 more lesson's pertaining to worship as we considered what took place in these 13 vs. #1 She taught us that true worship often times comes through brokenness, as she broke open the flask of fragrant oil and anointed the head and feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair. #2 We learned that true worship will cost you something, because if it's of no value to you then it's meaningless and if it's meaningless than it's not true worship.

It cost Mary an entire years wage, several thousand dollars for one moment with Jesus; now, your worship of Jesus may not always cost you financially, though that is one aspect of our worship. That's what we give opportunity to give to the Lord in that manner, when you give here, you're not giving to Calvary Chapel, you're giving to Jesus Christ He's just caused us to be the stewards of that for the time being. But it's my desire, and God's desire that when you give here that it be an act of worship from your heart to God. That you would just give out of the overflow of your love for God in worship and adoration of Him, God I want to give you this as an aspect of my love for you, and if you can't give out of your love for the Lord then please just don't give at all. God doesn't want you giving out of a sense of guilt of pressure because other people are looking, who cares what other people think, give because you love God and don't be persuaded by other means.

Finally true worship, is many times misunderstood, seen as a waste, a waste of time and money, and effort and energy, as Judas said why this waste, but true worship is always beneficial and anything give out of pure heart to the Lord is never a waste. Because one thing happened as Mary wiped the feet of Jesus with her hair and so I guess there were actually 7 lessons to be learned, (which seems significant in itself). As Mary worshipped at the feet of Jesus wiping His feet with her hair she began to take on the fragrance of Jesus, and so did the whole house. As you worship Jesus in Spirit and in truth, or spend time in His word or at His feet in prayer, you begin to take on the fragrance of Jesus and that fragrance will influence your whole house. So we looked at each of those points in some detail last week, which brings us up to vs 14 this morning.

Now when Jesus was aware of the attitude that was taken and what it was that Judas was saying, He rebuked Judas because of His false humility and pious façade. Because Judas was saying that the fragrant oil could've been sold and given to the poor, but Jesus said listen, you're always going to have the poor, but you're not always going to be able to minister to Me in such an intimate way so leave here be. and It could be that this was the final straw that sort of snapped Judas, because we read in vs 14.

#### Vs14-16

Now again there are those who have propagated that Judas was really a good guy who was really seeking to bring Jesus to the point of demonstrating His power through the resurrection. But the bible in no way alludes to that at all, to the contrary Jesus said of Judas that it would've been better had he never been born. and There have been all kinds of different speculations as to why Judas betrayed Jesus, but according to my bible, though he may've had certain emotions that led him to the decision that he made (that regardless of what people say every theory in regards to that is speculative.) There's no way to know that because the bible doesn't say, the bible gives no other reason other than that of money, plain and simple, John tells us that Judas was a thief. Judas betrayed the Lord, walked away from a personal relationship with Jesus over money. The pursuit of worldly gain.

I've seen a lot of people stray from the faith over their lust for money and desire for temporary gain, Judas did just that. But what amazes me is how cheaply he sold out, 30 pieces of silver, this was the chief priests and elder's worst nightmare, they would've made Judas a very rich man. But he sold out so cheap according to the law Ex 21:32 *"If an ox gores a male or female servant, he shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned."* 30 pieces of silver, the worth of a dead slave that had been gored to death by an ox, that's the price that Judas sold out for. and God knew that he would sell out cheap well in advance so we read in Zech 11:12-13 *"So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"--that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter."*

After Judas betrayed the Lord, realizing what he'd done, feeling sorry over his sin what did he do, he through the 30 pieces of silver down in the temple and what did they do with it, bought a potters field. Now, one thing that I would like to state about Judas is that I believe that it's wrong for us to assume that he was always this double minded man who always had it in for Jesus and followed him from the beginning with some hidden agenda. A lot of people seem to portray him in that light. But don't picture Judas with a black cape, always lurking in the shadows, twirling his mustache with some sinister laugh. Not one disciple suspected anything suspicious about Judas whatsoever; as a matter of fact they trusted him so much that they made him the treasurer of the group. He was a sharp individual, but he bought the lie and sold out for 30 pieces of silver, Mary was a giver, Judas was a taker, Mary gave an entire yrs wages for one moment with Jesus. Now is sharp contrast we see that Judas sold his birthright (so to speak) gave up his heritage as did Esau for a bowl of stew, a little bit of nothing, 30 pieces of silver. It's amazing how cheaply people sell out, now remember Matt 26 shows us various scenes of contrast as I told you last week. We've gone from Jesus to the chief priests, to Mary, to Judas, now we go back to Jesus.

#### Vs17-18

Both Mark and Luke tell us that this certain man that they were to be looking for was a man carrying a water jug. and That would've been something easily identifiable by them because in their culture it wasn't the men, who normally drew water from the wells, it was the woman. You recall the account of the woman that Jesus met at the well, Moses met up with the daughters of the priest of Midian at a well that they drew from as he fled from Egypt. Abraham's servant found a bride for Isaac at a well, and so to see a man carrying a water jug would stand out and be obvious and so they would have no problem spotting this man. and Apparently Jesus had made some type of plans with this man in advance, but he didn't tell His disciples for some reason, it could be that he didn't want Judas to know where they would be right up until that time so that he wouldn't have time to set Him up until after the feast. and We're also in another gospel that these guys doing all the preparations were Peter and John.

#### Vs19-21

They all with one accord pointed and said vehemently together, it's Judas isn't it, the guy over there in the black cape!! We've always been suspicious of his sinister laugh anyway, and the way he maneuvers through the shadows, is that what your bible says? That's not what my bible says; they were all wondering if it was going to be them, no one suspected Judas over anyone else.

## Vs22

All though they phrased the question in such a way as to expect a know answer, in our language today it would read better to say something like “*Lord, it isn't me is it?*” Yet they all recognized the propensity with in themselves to be the guy, we'd all like to think we're real strong and as bold as they come when it comes to being a witness for Jesus Christ, but understand that apart from the grace of God and the power of His Holy Spirit dwelling in me, I'd deny Jesus Christ in a heart beat. Now, is that my desire? No way, I want to stand firm for Jesus till the day that I die, but I also recognize the fact that in me, that is in my flesh, no good thing dwells. and Everyone of us apart from Jesus Christ keeping us by the power of the Holy Spirit would deny the Lord as soon as the heat was on, a lesson that Peter is about to learn.

## Vs23-24

What an awesome statement to have said by Jesus concerning your life, it would've been better for him had he never been born rather than suffer the ramifications of betraying and rejecting Jesus Christ But really, well might that be said of anyone who betrays Christ, and well might that be said of any person who refuses to (for pride, or material priority or for whatever reason) to reject Jesus Christ and not receive Him into their lives as His personal Lord and Savior. It would be better for that person had they never been born then to suffer the eternal ramifications having rejected Jesus. and Having rejected God's provision for their salvation through the person of His Son, God loves you so much and He made an escape from the penalty of your sin. But for the person who rejects that provision, that being faith in Jesus Christ and the finished work of the cross, it would've been better for them had they never been born. Now, all the disciples had been sitting there questioning Jesus, Lord, it isn't me is it? The whole time Judas has just been kind of sitting there all inconspicuous like and so before his own silence gives him away it says in vs 25.

## Vs25

What hypocrisy, he'd already made the deal and now he's all “*Rabbi, is it I?*” Notice all the disciples had called Jesus Lord, but Judas didn't, he simply called Him Rabbi, or teacher. and As you study the lay out of the feasts of their day and how the table was laid out in a basic U-shaped pattern and they all reclined around it, John was sitting immediately to the Lords Right, that's how he was able to recline on the Lords chest. and Ask Him who it was, which leaves to His immediate left, which was the place of honor for Judas who would've sat there with in reach to dip bread with the Lord. So even in this Jesus is affirming to Judas how He loves Him and that there's still time to repent, Jesus gave the seat of honor, to His betrayer.

That blows my mind, I'd think Judas would've sat way down at the end of the table, but the Lord is so patient and long-suffering, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. and So right up until the very end, He gave Judas time to repent. and Since Judas was sitting so close to Jesus that would explain how Jesus could've affirmed Judas' position to him with out the others really hearing it since they were all worried whether or not it was them and there was no doubt a small buzz in the room regarding that.

We find out in another gospel that at this point, after Jesus told Judas that He knew it was him, that Satan entered into Judas and the Lord told him, what you do, do it quickly. Jesus still in control even of the timing of His betrayal, clear up until the end He orchestrated the whole thing. But the other disciples thought that since Judas had the moneybox that maybe Jesus was telling him to go and get some more supplies or something, so Judas is gone at this point.

#### Vs26-29

The institution of what we commonly refer to as the Lords supper, the new covenant in the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ and as often as we eat the bread and drink the cup we do it in remembrance of Him. and The access to God the Father that He has created for us by the shedding of *His* blood, and we look forward to His return, proclaiming His death till He comes. By the old covenant, established through Moses whereby man could relate to God, and come to God. and Under the old covenant, man approached God through the mediation of a priest who would offer up a sacrifice to God on the behalf of that man and that man's sins. and The priest would go in to the temple and approach God on behalf of that man. Now Jesus has established a new covenant, we're no longer in need of an earthly mediator, we have a new approach to God and that way is through Jesus Christ Jesus said I am the way the truth and the Life and no man comes to the Father except through Me. and The book of Hebrews speaks in length regarding how much better the covenant that we have through Jesus Christ is than the old covenant.

One more quick observance and then we'll move on, I find it interesting the order in which Jesus instituted the new covenant, the bread 1<sup>st</sup>, and then the cup. I'd of thought that the cup would've been necessary 1<sup>st</sup>, in order to have Christ dwell in you, 1<sup>st</sup> you need to be cleansed by the blood.

That's not the approach Jesus took, He is in essence saying, if you're willing I'll come into you just as you are and then I will wash and cleanse your heart with My shed blood. Most people think they have to clean up their act before they ask Jesus into their heart. But in reality just the opposite is true, the bread comes 1<sup>st</sup>, Jesus said I am the bread of life, *He* comes in and then *He* cleans up.

## Vs30

Wouldn't it have been great to have been a fly on that wall, to hear Jesus singing with His disciples praises to the Father, even in the light of knowing what was coming Jesus worshipped and praised the Father. You think your circumstances look grim, Jesus was facing a certain gruesome and horrifying death and having the sins of the world placed upon Him in a few hours and yet He took the time to worship and give thanks to God. But notice that it says that they sang a hymn, listen, the strength of worship doesn't lie in the length of worship, as we can so often have a tendency to think. Whether you sing one song to God or 100, if they were all in Spirit and in truth, then He received the 1<sup>st</sup> one and was inhabiting your praise every bit as much at the 1<sup>st</sup> as He was at the end. God is with you in your praise to Him, that's not the problem; the problem is that our hearts are so hard and callused that it sometimes takes us a while to sense His presence. But His presence is always there, and sometimes I believe God with holds the "feeling" of His presence from us anyway. To teach us to worship Him and trust and walk with Him by faith and not by feelings, so the strength of your praise has nothing to do with the length of your praise.

## Vs31-35

What's Peter doing here? He's arguing with the word of God, he's arguing with the all knowing all powerful creator of the heavens and the earth thinking that he knows better. If God's word tells you that you're going to fail in a certain area, or if you place yourself in a certain circumstance, then you can know that just as sure as you find yourself in that circumstance you will fall. But how often like Peter we think we know better than the word of God. Instead of just residing in the fact that God knows us better than we know ourselves, we think well that may be true for so and so, but not for me. That's what Peter is doing here, he's saying Lord, they might all deny you, but as for me, I'll die 1<sup>st</sup> you can count on it. and In reality he's boasting in the strength of his own flesh, he was challenging the statements of Jesus.

Anytime we make a promise or a vow to God we're trusting in the strength of our own flesh to see our word to Him through, that's why Paul the apostle said in 1 Cor 10:12 "*Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*" I don't doubt the sincerity of Peter here, I believe that as far as he was concerned that if need be he would die for the Lord before he denied Him. His spirit was willing; it wasn't a question of his love or devotion, his sincerity, or even of his desire, nor is that the problem many times with us, the question is the weakness of my flesh. I love the Lord and want to serve Him with every fiber that's in my body, but that's my problem, the fibers that are in my body are flesh and my flesh is weak. and It's important that I know that my flesh is weak so that I don't put my trust in it, that was the lesson that Peter was needing to learn, and so many times that we need to learn, and it's a hard lesson to learn. Peter was trusting in his own strength and his own abilities more than he trusted in the word of God.

We just don't have the time to get into this in depth this morning and we touched on it Wednesday night, we are often times prone to think that we are stronger and more capable than in reality we really are. and That's a dangerous position to abide in, the bible warns us *not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, but to think soberly.* Peter was willing, but his flesh was weak, Jesus knew that, Peter needed to know that, and he found out that lesson that we would all do well to heed, Jesus is always right.

#### Vs36-38

Jesus is now beginning to feel the weight of this moment come upon Him, and so He seeks to rally a little bit of support. He grabs the guys and takes them to the garden, and He brings those 3 fellows that have been sort of that tight nit group of His a little farther and He's says hey guys, My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death, do Me a favor, would you just watch with Me while I go over here pray for a while. and I believe that it wasn't so much death that He feared, He knew He would rise again, nor was it so much the way that He was going to die though no doubt His humanity cringed at the thought of the horror and the pain that awaited Him. But I believe that what caused Him such grief and agony of heart and mind was the reality of what it would entail to have the sin of the world laid upon Him.

The bible says that *"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* Because sin, (the bible says) separates us from God, and Jesus had never known what it meant to be separate from the Father, you know how horrible you feel when you've sinned and grieved the Holy Spirit and you can sense that distance take place between you and God. and It's just horrible, and it might be over something that we might consider a small offense (though there's really no such thing as a small sin) but Jesus experienced that feeling to the nth degree, such to the point that you and I will never comprehend it. Every rape, every murder, molestation, little white lie and everything in between that this world has ever committed was laid upon Him and at that time the Father turned His back on the Son and Jesus cried out My God, My God why have You forsaken Me. I'll tell you why, because my sin personally, and you're sin personally separated Jesus from His Father. and I believe that the thought of Himself (pure and holy) being separate from His Father having our sin placed upon Him is what caused Him this grief and agony.

#### Vs39

Luke's Gospel tells us that He was agonizing so intensely that He was literally sweating, as it were (the bible says) great drops of blood from His pores, and that an angel appeared to Him to strengthen Him. and We find Him here petitioning the Father that if it were possible, to let this cup pass from Him. What cup, this cup is *"My blood of the new covenant shed for many the remission of sins."*

Jesus says if “it” is possible, if what is possible, if the remission of sins is possible apart from having the sins of the world laid upon Him and His blood being shed for them, then let that cup, the cross, the shedding of His blood, having my sin laid upon Him pass from Him.

Now we’re almost done, but stay with me because this is important. Jesus is petitioning the Father saying Father if there is any other way possible that man can have a relationship with you whereby they are able to obtain everlasting life apart from Me enduring your wrath poured out upon Me, and having their sins laid upon, causing Me who knows no sin to become sin for them, then lets take that route. If all other roads lead to God, then I don’t want to do this, if they can be good and upstanding moral citizens and some how merit your acceptance through good works, then I don’t want to do this. If they can only go to church every Sunday and Wednesday and even put their name on a membership roster, if that makes them worthy then lets take that route. Or maybe if they can knock on so many doors, or dress a certain way, or give lots of money, or for that matter any other thing under heaven, being religious and sincere, then Father I don’t want to do this. He’s calling for an alternate plan, any other plan if it’s possible, but nevertheless He said not My will be done but Your will be done. He’s laying down His own will in submission to the Father, it’s ok to express your will in prayer, but it’s important that like Jesus we’re willing to submit our will to that of the Father, even if it involves suffering.

Some people purport that it’s never God’s will for you to suffer, I disagree and would encourage you to talk to Jesus about if can ever be God’s will for one to suffer. The bible tells us that even Jesus learned obedience to the Father through the things He suffered. Now, Jesus is asking if it’s at all possible for sins to be remitted apart from Him partaking of the cup then lets do that, but Jesus went to the cross. and In that the cross of Christ declares to all men that there is no other way, that there’s only one way whereby man can be saved, because if it were possible to be saved through morality or some other code that God could’ve inaugurated then He would’ve done it right there as His Son were crying out to Him for that option. But He didn’t, so any other way that man claims is a way to God, is blasphemy to the cross of Jesus Christ saying that God in His infinite wisdom made a mistake in letting His only Son die on the cross because this is all you have to do and you don’t need Jesus to get there. But what God is declaring here is that the cross was absolutely essential for salvation. and That only by faith in the finished work of the cross, Jesus being delivered up, shedding His blood and being put to death for our offenses and being raised for our justification, will man inherit eternal life. Salvation only comes through Jesus Christ and As Peter put it, *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*