

Matthew Chapter 26

- Matthew Chapter 26 is the longest chapter in the New Testament.

V: 1 Jesus just concluded His study on the Mt. of Olives, which had been prompted by the disciples' questions.

V: 2 This is Jesus' 5th. reference to his soon crucifixion, death, and resurrection. This time He also makes reference to His betrayal.

- Jesus determines the timing of events, during the Passover feast.
- Jesus' first mention of His death and resurrection was at Caesaria Philippi, there has since been a steady, deliberate, forceful, advancing towards the cross.

[↑st ref. to death / resurrection](#)

Matthew 16:21 "From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto His disciples, how that He must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day."

Hebrews 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

- Josephus records that approximately 250,000 lambs were slaughtered in commemoration of the Passover in Jesus' time. Blood flowed freely in the Kidron Valley over which Jesus crossed.

John 1:29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS DURING LAST WEEK:

Month of Nissan, 32 AD.

9th. Friday 6 days prior to Passover. **John 12:1-11**

10th Sunday **Triumphant entry (Matt. 21:1-11)** **Exodus 12:3-6**
(4/6/32)

Day that the Passover lamb was selected and inspected by priests. Jesus presented himself, was questioned by Priests, and found without fault or blemish. (**Matthew 22**)

11th Monday

12th Tuesday **Olivet discourse. Matthew 24-25**

13 th	Wednesday	Last Supper	Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 13.
14 th	Thursday	Passover, Crucifixion	– spared by the blood of the Lamb.
15 th	Friday		Feast of un-leavened bread with special Sabbath days on each end of the 7 day feast, the 15 th & 21 st .
16 th	Saturday		
17 th	Sunday	Resurrection	He's alive! Hallelujah!

V: 3 The “palace” of the high priest, TBN / BHC style.

1 Peter 5:2 “Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind.”

- Caiaphas was the son in law to Annas. Annas was the power behind the scenes and the High Priest accepted and recognized by the Jews. Caiaphas was a Roman appointee. Annas' 4 sons also served as High Priests at different times. They ran and controlled the Temple concessions that Jesus had twice cleared from His Father's house.
- The Jews took Jesus to both Annas and Caiaphas, then to Pontius Pilot.

John 18:12-13, 24

V: 4 The Priests have gone from ignoring Jesus to wanting to kill him, just as Herod the Great did.

- This is a sad fulfillment of the prophecies laid out in Psalm 2 and Psalm 110.

Psalm 2:2 “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against His anointed,...”

Psalm 110:1 “The Lord said unto My Lord, sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”

Matthew 2:4-16

- Magi addressing Herod about the true king / Messiah.
- Herod addressing “all the chief priests and scribes” – where the Christ was to be born.
- The religious leaders quoted **Micah 5:2**, but ignored / took for granted that now was the time and that they were very close to the place. Sadly they were apathetic and dis-interested.

Romans 13:11 “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.”

- The message of the Olivet discourse, pay attention, be ready, watch!

2 Corinthians 6:2 “For He saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured / helped thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

Luke 12:48 “... For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:...”

John 11:47-48 “⁴⁷Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, what do we? For this man doeth many miracles. ⁴⁸If we let Him thus alone, all men will believe on Him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.”

Galatians 5:19-21 “¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Psalms 101:6-7 “⁶Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me. ⁷He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.”

V: 5 “*Not on the feast day*” say the priests.

- They didn't read verse 2. Jesus set the appointed time, not the priests.
- The feast day had historical significance, and the precedence had already been set for rebellion on this day.

V: 6 The house of a leper, Jesus came to save the lost, those in need.

Matthew 9:11-13 “¹¹And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto His disciples, why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? ¹²But when Jesus heard that, He said unto them, they that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. ¹³But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

- Lazarus was there also, many people came just to see him. Many people believed because he had been raised from the dead.

John 12:1-11 (parallel account)

- Matthew is not written in chronological order, but by subject matter. The dinner with Lazarus & co. took place prior to the triumphant entry in **Matthew 22**, 6 days prior to the Passover feast.

V: 7 Mary anointed both Jesus' head and feet, then she wiped his feet with her hair. She demonstrated both faith and love.

- "a woman", identified as Mary in **John 12:3**
- Mary is specifically identified 3 times in the Gospels, in all three instances we see her at the feet of Jesus.

Luke 10:38-42 Sitting at Jesus' feet while Martha worked.

John 11:28-32 At Jesus' feet in sorrow after Lazarus died.

John 12:1-3 At Jesus' feet, anointing Him with her best.

- In the three incidents where she's at Jesus' feet, Mary is misunderstood or criticized by her fellow believers.
- "precious ointment" = "spikenard"
- Anointed, responding to what Jesus had said regarding His suffering, death and resurrection. A contrast to how the disciples reacted to this information.
- There is always a proper or appropriate response and or an in-appropriate response to the things of God.

Matt. 16:21-23 Denial / rebellion.

Matt. 17:12 No response.

Matt. 17:22 Sadness, ignored part about resurrection.

Matt. 20:18-19 No response, ignored, Salome makes request for sons.

Matt. 26:2 Anointed by Mary.

- An act of complete humility, Mary surrendered her glory at the feet of Jesus.

1 Corinthians 11:15 "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering."

James 2:17-18 ¹⁷Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

¹⁸Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

- The contrast between Mary's worship and Judas' betrayal seems most evident in light of **James 2:17-18**. Judas apparently talked a good talk, but Mary showed us all.

V: 8 “His disciples”, in this instance lead by Judas. **John 12:4**

- Jesus referred to Judas as the “son of perdition”, which means literally “son of waste”. **John 17:12**

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

V: 9 It was expensive ointment. 300 pence, about a years wages. **John 12:5-6**

- Considering the value of the gift, and the fact that Mary was un-married, could this have been her dowry?
- Judas’ motivation was the money, not the poor.
- Judas was a thief.

John 12:6 “This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.”

- Their statements were a reflection of what was in their hearts.

Luke 6:45 “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.”

Matthew 15:11 “Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.”

Genesis 6:5 “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

- It’s a process: first the **Thought**, then a **Statement** (reflecting the heart / thoughts), then an **Action**.
- Judas had been empowered to do miracles like the other apostles (Matt. Ch. 10) but this is not necessarily proof of salvation. Obedience to God’s word is the determining factor.
- **Judas demonstrated that it is possible to be “in” a group of believers and not be “of” them.** A “mixed multitude”.

Jesus washed the disciples' feet, but they were not all clean.

John 13:10-11 “¹⁰Jesus saith to him, he that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. ¹¹For He knew who should betray Him; therefore said He, ye are not all clean.”

V: 10 Jesus defended Mary, He always protects His own – Shepherd / Defender / Advocate.

V: 11 We cannot make decisions based upon perceived need, or even “spirituality”, but we need to know and understand the will of God then simply obey.

- This is again a reference to His death & resurrection; that He's not always going to be there physically for this to be done.

V: 12 Mary comprehended the reality of Jesus' words regarding his death and resurrection. She seemed to catch on to something that none of the apostles seemed to grasp.

- One of the gifts he received as a child was myrrh, **Matthew 2:11**, looking forward to his death and resurrection.

V: 13 Nothing sacrificed for Jesus is a waste!

- The ointment used by Mary at this time to worship Jesus showed not only love, but wisdom in God's word, it was also timely.
- Later in **Mark 16:1** we read that the women were taking spices / oil etc to anoint Jesus' body, but He wasn't in the grave.

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

Lessons drawn from this incident:

1. Worship is costly. **2 Samuel 24:24** **1 Chron. 21:24**
2. Worship involves brokenness.
3. Worship should be done in a timely manner. Better to do it now than to wait.

V: 14 “*Then one of the twelve....*” – really? Judas was in the group, but not of the group.

1 John 2:19 “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”

- The rebuke of Jesus seems to be the trigger point for Judas to initiate his move against Jesus. This may be the point of outward action, but his heart was revealed in his prior statements.

Hebrews 12:5-6 “⁵And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, my son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: ⁶For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. ⁷If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? ⁸But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.”

Parallel passage:

Luke 22:1-6 “³Then Satan entered into Judas surnamed Iscariot...”

- Satan entered into Judas, he communed with the priests. Satan couldn't have done that had Jesus truly been in his heart.
- The priests were doing business with the Devil.
- Satan can't enter into a true believer.

1 John 4:4 “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 “¹⁴Be ye not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers: For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”

James 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”

V: 15 “Covenanted” made a deal – they were in agreement.

Amos 3:3 “How can two walk together, unless they be agreed?”

- “30 pieces of silver”:
 1. The price of a slave. **Exodus 21:32**
 2. The exact amount prophesied in **Zechariah 11:12**.

Zechariah 11:12-13 ¹²“And I said to them, if ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. ¹³And the Lord said unto me, cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord.”

V: 16 Judas now joins with the religious leaders looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus into their hands.

V: 17-19 **Exodus 12:3-13** describing the institution of the “Passover” in Egypt.

- Lamb selected, blood on doorway, eating meal with shoes on, staff in hand...

Passover preparations:

- Jesus sent John & Peter (**Luke 22:8**) to prepare things for the dinner.
- Shopping list: bread, bitter herbs, wine, un-blemished lamb.
- The lamb had to be inspected and slain in the temple with the blood having been put on the altar, then roasted whole and served.

V: 18 Matthew records a summary of Jesus’ instructions, whereas Luke gives us more detail:

Luke 22:7-13 (turn to & read)

Mark 14:15 also describes that they made these preparations in a large upper room.

V: 19 The disciples did what they were told and found everything just as Jesus had described.

V: 20 The Jewish day starts at sun down, or in the evening because in **Genesis 1:5, 8** etc. scripture reads that it was *evening* and the *morning* were the first day in that order.

V: 21 Jesus knew all along that Judas would betray Him, why would He at this time make this announcement?

2 Reasons:

- 1st Timing, Jesus initiated the sequence of events that would lead to His crucifixion, they didn’t just happen to Him.

John 10:10-17 “¹⁷Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.”

2nd Protocol:

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 “²⁷Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. ²⁹For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.”

V: 22 “Is it I?” Infers an admission that it could be.

- Each of the disciples knew that they were capable of betrayal and humbly assumed that it might be themselves. Heart searching time.

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

Psalms 139:23-24 “²³Search me, oh God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; ²⁴and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

V: 23 All 4 Gospels record this event, but the Gospel of John gives the most direct / positive ID of the betrayer.

John 13:26-27 “²⁶Jesus answered, he it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when He had dipped the sop, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. ²⁷And after the sop Satan entered into him.”

- Betrayal:

Psalms 41:9 “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.”

Obadiah 7 “All the men of thy confederacy have brought thee even to the border: the men that were at peace with thee have deceived thee, and prevailed against thee; they that eat thy bread have laid a wound under thee: there is none understanding in him.”

V: 24 The Son of Man goes as it is written: prophesying of Him:

^{1st} prophesy regarding Jesus:

Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.”

Acts 2:22-23 “²²Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a Man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: ²³Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:”

- Regarding Judas Iscariot:

Matthew 18:7 “Woe unto the world because of offenses! For it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!”

- Sometimes a contrast is necessary to discern light from dark, good from bad, that comparison is what drives us to the cross.
- Judas heard this statement / judgment. This was an opportunity to repent.

1 Corinthians 11:19 “For there must be also heresies / factions among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.”

V: 25 Why would Judas ask? He already knew of his involvement with the priests.

- Possibly he’s trying to keep his cover, but he really doesn’t know Jesus.
- Judas uses a different word than the rest of the group. Everybody else said “Lord” (2962) is it I? Judas said “Master” (4461) as in Rabbi, or teacher.
- **John 13:27- 30** Judas received the “sop”, Satan had already entered into him, and now he realizes that Jesus knows about his intent to betray him, with his cover blown he leaves to contact the priests who must now act quickly or possibly lose the opportunity.
- During this time John had been sitting on Jesus’ right, Judas was on His left, the seat of honor.
- What must Jesus have felt at such a betrayal?

Psalms 55:12-13 “For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; then I could hide from him. But it was you, a man my equal, my companion and my acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked to the house of God in the throng.”

V: 26 Judas is identified as the betrayer and leaves, the group led by Jesus moves into a time of communion.

- Doesn't seem to match up with **Luke 22:21** as far as the exact timing of Judas' departure and the last supper chronology.
- Was Judas present for communion or not?
- **Matthew** seems to identify the betrayer, then goes into communion.
- **Mark 14:18-21** - identifies the betrayer, then goes into communion. No specific mention of Judas leaving, but appears that he might be gone because next scene is the garden of Gethsemane where Judas appears again.
- **Luke 22:21** seems to indicate that Judas was present for communion, then Jesus speaks of his betrayal.
- **John 13:21-31** Judas identified, no mention of communion. Judas leaves in Ch. 13 and doesn't re-appear until Ch. 18:3
- The primary focus of the writers was not the exact chronology as much as specific lessons to impart
- There is no indication that anything special happened to the bread and wine, they each remained as such. There is no basis for *transubstantiation*.
- The elements are intended as a representation of His body and His blood.

Jesus did say that He was "the bread of life."

John 6:35 "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life. He that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst."

John 6:48-58

PROBABLE ORDER OF LAST SUPPER: (From Haley's)

1. Disciples' contention about who's #1.
2. Jesus washes their feet. **John 13.**
3. Eating of the meal, first three courses out of four.
4. Jesus announces His betrayal, response "Is it I?"
5. Sop given to Judas, identified, he leaves.
6. Communion.
7. New Commandment:

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

V: 28 A new covenant, sealed with the blood of the Lamb. The old covenant was the Law; the new covenant is the covenant of blood.

- New Covenant:

Jeremiah 31:31 "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah."

John 1:17 "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

- OT = Law, NT =? Grace? Truth? NT = blood.

Luke 22:20 "... this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you."

- Contracts were always sealed in blood.

Genesis 15:9 "So He said to him, bring Me a three year old heifer, a three year old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

Exodus 24:7- 8 ⁷And he took the Book of the Covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, all that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient. ⁸And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, behold the blood of the covenant which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words."

Leviticus 17:11 "For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul."

- Remission: (G-859) "aphesis", af'-es-is; freedom; pardon, deliverance, forgiveness, liberty, remission.

V: 29 The Passover feast commemorated God's deliverance of Israel from the Egyptians.

- The meal was consumed over 4 courses, each of which included a cup of wine. This was to commemorate the 4 promises God made to the children of Israel during the Passover.

Exodus 6:6-8 ⁶Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments: And I will take you to me for a people, and I will be to you a God: and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I am the Lord."

- Jesus stopped short of that last cup / course, which is waiting for us at the marriage supper of the Lamb in Heaven, as is fulfillment of the 4th promise.
- The wedding feast, when Jesus will partake with us.

Revelation 19:8-9 ⁸And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. ⁹And he saith unto me, write, blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, these are the true sayings of God."

V: 30 **Psalms 111-118**, the hallel psalms were traditionally sung at the Passover.

Psalm 116

- Heading out from the upper room to the Mount of Olives, eventually to Gethsemane.
- The olive harvest was in the fall months, Sept., Oct, Nov., meaning that olive press would not be in use, and the orchard would be empty – a solitary place.

V: 31 “All” will be offended, not just Peter.

Prophesy fulfilled:

Zechariah 13:7 “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the Lord of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.”

Romans 3:10 “As it is written, there are none righteous, no not one.”

V: 32 “But” – contrast / “none the less” - Assuring his disciples of His resurrection, and who is in control.

John 10:17-18 “¹⁷Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.”

Later the angel at the tomb would say:

Matthew 28:7 “And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and, behold, He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him: lo, I have told you.”

Mark 16:7 “But go your way, tell His disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see Him, as He said unto you.”

- The disciples didn’t seem to grasp this statement, they’re still a verse or two behind.
- Jesus is doing something deeper than just communicating to His disciples, He is including them, entrusting them as “friends”. He’s revealing the plan.

John 15:15 “Henceforth I call not you servants for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you.”

V: 33 Pride, putting himself above the others. He forgot the lessons about being like little children, or having his feet washed.

- Peter is not unique in his over confidence; we are all capable of denying Jesus, and of the most heinous sins.

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

- Walking from the upper room & the Passover meal to Gethsemene.

- Peter does not just turn his back on the Lord in an abrupt manner, there is a progression that brings him to this action, that leads him to bitter tears.

- This takes place in 6 increments / steps over the next 30 verses.

Romans 12:3 “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”

1. Here Peter takes the first step that leads to his denying Jesus: over confidence & pride.

V: 34 In verses 69-75 we see this prediction come to pass.

- This prediction / prophecy was very specific and it seemed to be the opposite of the heavenly doxologies from **Isaiah 6:3** and **Revelation 4:8**.

Isaiah 6:3 “And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory.”

Revelation 4:8 “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!”

- Why three times? God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – total denial.

V: 35 Peter now takes the 2nd step towards denying Jesus: He denies, ignores the word of God. He is directly contradicting what Jesus has just said would happen.

- **“All”**: again all the disciples made the same promise of faithfulness.

Proverbs 20:6 “Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?”

Romans 7:18 “For I know that in me, that is, in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”

Luke 17:10 “So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, we are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.”

V: 36 “Gethsemane” means “oil press”.

- Rooftop vines, highest place – Kidron Valley – Gethsemane, to the lowest place.
- Oil presses; great weight or screw press = pressure. Brokenness, crushing, then the oil flows.

John 12:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”

John 14:16, 18, 26. “¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever.” - “¹⁸I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” - “²⁶But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

- Both the 1st and last Adam fought a spiritual battle in a garden. One ended in defeat and death, but the other ended in victory and everlasting life.

1 Corinthians 15:45 “And so it is written, the first man Adam became a living soul. The last Adam was made a quickening or life-giving spirit”

V: 37 Again Peter, James, and John are singled out as an inner circle of sorts, for a purpose to be sure.

Luke 8:49 Jairus’ daughter raised.

Matthew 17:1 Mt. of transfiguration.

Matthew 26:37 Here in the garden of Gethsemene

- Sorrowful, knowing the separation that would come between himself and the Father because of our sins. The weight of our sins, a burden none of us could bear.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For he hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

1 Peter 2:24 “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”

Galatians 3:13 “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”

V: 38-39

Jesus tells the disciples to stay and “watch” with Him. The same word that is used in **Matthew 24:42**

Matthew 24:42 “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.”

- Disciples just told to sit and wait vs: Peter, James, John who are told to “watch with Me.”
- “watch” - G1127. gregoreuo, gray-gor-yoo'-o; from G1453; to keep awake, i.e. watch (lit. or fig.):--be vigilant, wake, (be) watch (-ful).

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

- In a time of extreme trial we find Jesus humbling himself and praying to the Father.

“if it be possible” It wasn't, there never was, is, and never will be any other way but by the cross of Jesus.

John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby which we must be saved.”

- The cross offends so greatly because it is so narrow, only one way, and that is through Jesus.
- Had there been any other way, the cross of Jesus would not have been necessary, but there wasn't and isn't any other way. The cross was His path, and it's ours as well.

- The best prayer anyone can offer up is just like the Jesus prayed. *“Not my will Lord, but yours be done”*.

God is so wise!

Isaiah 55:8-9 ⁸“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

“This cup” While it did contain physical suffering and death, it’s most horrid contents were sin and God’s indignation and wrath against sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For he hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

Jeremiah 25:15 “For thus saith the Lord God of Israel unto me; take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.”

Matthew 27:46 “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

“This cup” = the cross, the contents = our sins, and the resulting separation from God.

Psalm 22:1-3 ¹“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? ²O my God, I cry in the day time, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. ³But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.”

Habakkuk 1:13 “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity:...”

- Some have suggested that “this cup” was the fear or concern of a premature death prior to the atoning sacrifice on the cross. This is not the case.
- The timing had been laid out in verse 2, in contradiction to what the priests had planned in verse 5.
- Jesus was and is in full control.

John 10:17-18 ¹⁷“Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.”

Acts 2:23 “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:”

Matthew 12:29 “Or else how can one enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? And then he will spoil his house.”

- Jesus first gained victory over the devil and death itself. On the cross the enemy was bound – and still is, then Jesus descended to the lowest parts of hell and set free the captives, spoiling his house.

At this point though the battle is still raging:

Luke 22:42-44 “⁴²Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine be done. ⁴³And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

- To Jesus it was the cup of indignation, wrath, and God’s righteous judgment; to us it was the cup of our salvation.

Psalm 116:12-13 “¹²What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? ¹³I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.”

V: 40 Peter is singled out after his boastful assertion of being above the others.

Proverbs 16:18 “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.”

Matthew 13:25 “but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.”

- This is the 3rd step in Peter’s walk to the denial of Jesus: he is sleeping instead of praying.

V: 41 There is always that battle between the Spirit and our flesh, our will.

Romans 7:14-25 War between Spirit & flesh, sin nature, freedom.

Galatians 5:16 “This I say then: walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

1 Corinthians 16:13 “Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”

V: 42 Resigning Himself, purposing to God’s will.

John 4:34 “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.”

John 12:23-27 ²³And Jesus answered them, saying, the hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. ²⁴Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. ²⁵He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. ²⁶If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour. ²⁷Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.”

- Essentially, it comes down to the same thing for us as well.

Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Genesis 22:9 “Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.”

V: 43-44 He is faithful even when we are not faithful.

Genesis 15:1-21 God’s one sided covenant with Abraham, while Abraham slept, God passed through the midst and was faithful.

Philippians 1:6 “Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Hebrews 10:23 “Let us hold fast the confession of our faith without wavering; for He is faithful that promised.”

V: 45 Parallel accounts: **Mark 14:32-42** **Luke 22:39-46**

- There is probably a gap in the chronology at this point, Jesus wouldn’t tell the disciples to sleep and get up in one breath.
- During this time gap, Jesus may have prayed for each of the disciples knowing the trials that lay ahead for each of them.

Romans 8:27 “And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saint according to the will of God.”

Romans 8:34 “Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”

Hebrews 7:25 “Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

V: 46 The appointed time has come.

V: 47 Parallel accounts: **Mark 14:45** **Luke 22:47-53** **John 18:1-8**

- **John 18:3** describes the group as a “band” which was a Roman “cohort” which equaled 600 men, they must have thought they were in for a fight.
- “Band” = “ten speiran” Greek = 1/10 legion.
- Using general description? Or actual number of Roman soldiers.
- From the other accounts that we read there is no doubt that these people were dealing with God in the flesh but in an almost miraculous way were able to ignore it!
 - Jesus says “I am” and everybody falls backwards.
 - Jesus heals Malchius’ ear in front of everybody.
- staves = spears

V: 48 “kiss” = k-o-d, kiss of death.

Psalms 41:9 “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.”

V: 49 The word for “master” (KJV) is more like “Rabbi” or “teacher” as opposed to a servant speaking to his Lord or master.

- Mark’s account has Judas saying “**Rabbi, Rabbi**”, sounds a lot like “Lord, Lord” which is consistent with Judas’ ultimate destination.
- The word “kissed” in the Greek implies a tender kiss, to kiss repeatedly; Judas kissed Jesus repeatedly, making the signal as obvious as possible.
- In that day it was customary for a disciple / student to kiss their teacher. Was Judas mocking Jesus?
- This signal was needed to identify Jesus who really didn’t stand out physically.

Isaiah 53:2 “For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground. He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.”

V: 50 “Friend, why have you come?”

- Jesus was still a friend to Judas.
- It would seem that he came, to fulfill God’s word / prophecy.
- John and the other Gospels fill in some of the blanks, specifically about the entire band hearing Jesus declare Himself as God – “I AM” – and their falling backwards.

V: 51 **4th of 6 steps towards denying Jesus**: Peter taking action when he should have simply stood by his Lord, devotion.

- Peter’s actions reveal what he believes.

Matthew 16:22 “Then Peter took Him, and began to rebuke Him, saying, be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.”

- If Peter had understood Jesus properly and believed what Jesus spoke he wouldn’t have tried to keep Jesus from the cross, yet that is exactly what he does.

2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

V: 52 In Christ’s kingdom, victories are not won by carnal means:

2 Corinthians 10:4 “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds.”

- Peter was probably a better fisherman than he was a swordsman.
- Noting also that he attacked a “servant” of the High Priest as opposed to an actual Roman soldier.

Revelation 13:10 “He who leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.”

Galatians 6:7-8 “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

- The true weapons of a Christian warrior are prayer, the word of God, and the power of a Spirit filled life.

V: 53 Why 12 legions of angels (72,000), why not just 1 or 1,000?

- One angel slew 185,000 in one night, which would have been more than sufficient.

Daniel 7:10 “A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. Thousand thousands (1 million) ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand (100 million) stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.”

- Jesus was not limited to one puny sword, or to all the angels of Heaven, He was in possession of all the power of God – the limiting factor was His love for us and our great need for redemption.

V: 54 Jesus came to fulfill the Word of God, not to destroy it.

Matthew 5:17 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”

V: 55 Jesus points out the obvious: He’s never advocated the violent overthrow of the government, never incited the multitudes to revolt, or shown any tendency towards violence in any way – yet they come after Him with an overwhelming display of force.

Isaiah 53:9 “And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; because He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth.”

- They could have sent Judas with one crippled soldier, and that would have been enough. The soldier would have been healed and God’s word would have been fulfilled.

V: 56 God esteems His Word above His name.

Psalms 138:2 “I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

- “might” be fulfilled, “would” - “must” be fulfilled in **Mark 14:49**
- In Matthew the word “might” was added for clarification, but in the original it reads “... that the scriptures of the prophets be fulfilled.”
- Then the disciples split as prophesied:

Zechariah 13:7 “Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the Man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.”

V: 57 **John 18:12-24**, a parallel account.

- The Sanhedrin was already assembled in the middle of the night. Night court. Rooster’s crow starting at about 3-4 AM.
- When the officer struck Jesus, contrary to the law, it was with the approval of Annas, possibly reacting to his expression of disapproval at Jesus’ remarks.
- This was a violation of the law and contrary to God’s word which forbids judgement or trials between sunset and sunrise. **Isaiah 29:15**
- This was done at night and in secret to keep the people from finding out until the timing was right.

V: 58 **5th step of 6 leading to Peter’s denial of Christ**: Peter followed from “afar off”. This is never a good place to be! You only get there from back sliding.

Hebrews 2:1 “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”

6th step of 6 steps leading to Peter’s denial of Christ:

Mark 14:54 “And Peter followed Him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire.”

- It matters who we hang out with.

2 Chronicles 17-20 King Jehoshaphat, the son of Asa.

2 Chronicles 17:1-6 **18:1-3, 31-32** **19:1-2**

Psalms 1:1 “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

1 Corinthians 15:33 “Be not deceived: evil communications / company corrupt good manners.”

2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be ye not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And communion hath light with darkness?”

- Peter does not just turn his back on the Lord in an abrupt manner, there is a progression that brings him to this action, that leads him to bitter tears.
- 6 steps – warning signs for us.
 1. Over confidence: **V: 33** “... I will never be made to stumble.”
 2. Denied word of God – **V: 35** “... I will not deny you.”
 3. Sleeping instead of praying – **V:40**
 4. Action / works instead of devotion – **V: 51** “... stretched out his hand...”
 5. Followed from afar, too much distance – **V: 58** “...Peter followed Him at a distance.”
 6. Sat with the enemy – **V: 58** “he went in and sat with the servants...”
Mark 14:54 Peter sat with the servants of the enemy being warmed at the enemies fire.

- With this negative example, we need to be aware, diligent, and circumspect to do the opposite:

1. Regarding over confidence: Put no confidence in self.

Romans 12:3 “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 “⁵Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

2. Regarding denying / ignoring God’s word: Listen to and obey God’s word.

Psalms 119:9 “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.”

Deuteronomy 11:13-14 “¹³And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the Lord your God, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹⁴that I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.”

3. Sleeping instead of praying: Pray always without ceasing.

Luke 21:36 “Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

4. Action / works instead of devotion: Wait on the Lord, be still.

Isaiah 49:23b "... thou shalt know that I am the Lord: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for Me."

Psalms 130:5 "I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in His word do I hope."

5. Following from afar: Abide in Him, stay close.

Psalms 63:8 "My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me."

Matthew 6:33 "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

James 4:8 "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you..."

6. Sitting with the enemy: avoid friendship with the world. **James 4:4**

Psalms 1:1 "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."

V: 59 "We're going to execute him right after he's had a fair trial."

- The bottom line is that they are going to execute Jesus, they just want the pretense or the appearance of having done it lawfully.

James 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

9th Commandment

Exodus 20:16 "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."

Deuteronomy 19:18-19 "¹⁸And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother; ¹⁹then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you."

- This too was part of God's plan; and was foretold in prophecy:

Psalms 35:11 "False witness did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not."

V: 60-61 Finding false witnesses wasn't the problem, finding two that could keep their story straight – that was the difficult part.

- Why two? Because they were trying to maintain the appearance of legitimacy.

Deuteronomy 19:15 “One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”

- Jesus said “this Temple” referring to His own body, these false witnesses misquoted Him from what He’d said three years prior stating “the Temple of God”.

John 2:19 “Jesus answered and said to them, destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

- Interesting that this would even qualify as an accusation.

V: 62 Annas is prodding, try to solicit a response.

V: 63 Jesus kept His peace because He wasn’t there to die for Himself, He was there to die for us. He could answer any charges against Himself and declare His innocence, the charges against us however were / are true – we’re sinners deserving of death.

Romans 3:10, 23 – because we were guilty

Isaiah 53:7 “He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.”

- At that time the Priests and Rabbis expected the Messiah to be the Son of God in a literal sense, which was based on the scriptures. Today they believe that the Messiah will be a man, as Moses was a man.
- The scriptures however don’t reflect that change.

Psalms 2:7 “I will declare the decree: The Lord hath said unto unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”

Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

- The religious leaders understood Jesus correctly:

John 19:7 “The Jews answered him, we have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.”

V: 64 Annas invokes the authority of God: Jesus answers. “Yes, I am the Messiah”. They didn’t like His answer, or what He added to it.

Zechariah 12:10 “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.”

Zechariah 13:6 “And one shall say unto Him, what are these wounds in thine hands? Then He shall answer, those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.”

Psalms 110:1 “The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy foot stool.”

V: 65 Did the High Priest tear his clothes because of his grief concerning blasphemy, or was it because of jubilation at having come up with a charge?

- In either event, it was unlawful for a High Priest to tear his clothes in the traditional expression of grief as others did.

Leviticus 21:10 “And he that is the high priest among his brethren, upon whose head the anointing oil was poured, and that is consecrated to put on the garments, shall not uncover his head, nor rend his clothes;”

- The sin of blasphemy had occurred at this “trial”, but Jesus was not the one who was guilty. The entire Sanhedrin / council had just rejected Jesus as the Messiah, they had blasphemed the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 12:31 “Wherefore I say unto you, all manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.”

V: 66 A pre-determined verdict after a “fair” trial.

- The lawful punishment for blasphemy was stoning, not crucifixion.

Leviticus 24:16 “And he that blasphemeth the name of the Lord, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the Lord, shall be put to death.”

V: 67 Their cruel treatment went unchecked, and reflected the hatred in their hearts, fulfilling **Isaiah 50:6**

Isaiah 50:6 “I gave My back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.”

- “buffeted” / “beat” G2852 punched / closed fist,
- “smote” / “struck” G4474 slapped open hand.
- It was unlawful to treat Jesus this way.

Leviticus 19:35 “Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure.”

Acts 23:3 “Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?”

Deuteronomy 25:1-3 “¹If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that the judges may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked. ²And it shall be, if the wicked man be worthy to be beaten, that the judge shall cause him to lie down, and to be beaten before his face, according to his fault, by a certain number. ³Forty stripes he may give him, and not exceed: lest, if he should exceed, and beat him above these with many stripes, then thy brother should seem vile unto thee.”

- God’s purpose in this is correction, not punishment or humiliation, certainly not vengeance.

V: 68 Mocking Jesus.

Psalms 22:6-7a “⁶But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. ^{7a}All they that see me laugh me to scorn...”

- We leave the scene with Jesus being condemned in this kangaroo court to a sub-plot that is playing out at the same time, Peter’s denial of Jesus.

V: 69-70 Earlier Peter had confronted the soldiers & guards, an armed contingent, even striking off the ear of the High Priest’s servant – a courageous act. Now he is intimidated by a couple of servant girls.

- Peter denies Jesus for the first time.

V: 71 Peter confronted by another girl. They knew who Peter was, he had been a witness as one who stood with Jesus.

V: 72 Again Peter denies Jesus, this time with an “oath” – “I swear I don’t know Him.”

V: 73 First two girls, then a man confronts Peter. The man was a relative of Malchus who probably knew what had taken place, eye witnesses are hard to deny.

John 18:26 “One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, did not I see thee in the garden with Him?”

- Peter’s speech betrayed him. Could have been his accent from Galilee. Jerusalem and Galilee aren’t that far apart.
- Or it could have been the manner of his speech from having walked with Christ for 3 years, which he tried to change in the next verse by cursing and swearing.

Luke 22:59 “And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, of a truth this fellow also was with Him: for he is a Galilean.”

V: 74 Peter is now more emphatic in his denial, he accentuates his denial with profanity, as if that would lend credence to his denial which is in opposition to the established facts.

- Hebrew does not accommodate profanity, Peter was speaking Aramaic, the language of the day.
- Roosters & hens were not allowed within the city limits of Jerusalem because they would defile the Holy City.
- When the cock crowed, Peter was immediately reminded of Jesus’ words, and his own defilement.
- Short term prophesy fulfilled (V: 34).
- Luke says that as this came to happen somehow Jesus and Peter’s eyes met.

Luke 22:60-61 ⁶⁰And Peter said, “man, I know not what thou sayest.” And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. ⁶¹And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.”

V: 75 I can feel Peter’s pain in this verse.

- The word “bitterly” means literally “gut wrenching”
- This is the beginning to the road to recovery, restoration:

2 Corinthians 7:10 “For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

- The difference between apostasy and backsliding is manifest in the difference between Judas and Peter, repentance.
- Judas was remorseful, but not truly repentant. It appears that he didn't even know Jesus. If he had he would have known to go back to Jesus, wherever he was and seek His forgiveness – which would surely have been given. Instead he went out and hung himself, sealing his fate.
- Fortunately this isn't the end of the story for Peter.

Right back to the beginning:

Matthew 5:3-9 “³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. ⁷Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

After Jesus' resurrection:

Mark 16:7 “But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see Him, as He said unto you.”

John 21:15-17 “¹⁵So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me more than these? He saith unto Him, yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto Him, feed My lambs. ¹⁶He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? He saith unto Him, yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, feed My sheep. ¹⁷He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou Me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, lovest thou Me? And he said unto Him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, feed My sheep.”

Acts 2:14, 41 “¹⁴But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words.” – “⁴¹Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”