

Mark Chapter 14

V: 1 The chief priests and scribes are going to take God by trickery...?

- Jesus just concluded His study on the Mt. of Olives, which had been prompted by the disciples' questions about the end of all things and His return.
- The message of the Olivet discourse, pay attention, be ready, watch, and pray!

2 Corinthians 6:2 “For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you / succoured you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

- Jesus determines the timing of things – all of which are based on the Passover and the typology presented there.
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CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS DURING LAST WEEK:

(Review:)

- Approaching the Passover feast. (Last of 10 signs / plagues) Exodus 12:3-6
- Jesus is deliberately moving towards the cross.
- Time frame: 2 days prior to Calvary.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS DURING LAST WEEK:

Month of Nissan (1st month), **32 AD**. (March / April)

10th	Sunday	Triumphant entry (Matt. 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-10, John 12:12-19) 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
13th	Wednesday	Last Supper Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 13.
14th	Thursday	Prep. day: Passover, Crucifixion – spared by the blood of the Lamb.
15th	Friday	High Sabbath day , Feast of un-leavened bread with special Sabbath days on each end of the 7 day feast, the 15 th & 21 st .
16th	Saturday	Regular Sabbath day.

17th Sunday **Resurrection**, He's alive! Hallelujah!

- **Matthew 26:3** - records that this meeting of the chief priests and scribes took place at the palace of Caiaphas the High Priest.

V: 2 They determined that they would not take Jesus on the feast day so as not to start an uproar.

- Jesus would ultimately determine the timing of these events:

Matthew 26:2 “You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

- Their motive was self preservation. Most of the rebellions against Rome had taken place on Passover because of the patriotism and national identity – they were trying to preserve the status quo.

John 11:48 “If we let Him thus alone, all men will believe on Him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.”

- They knew that the people held Jesus as a prophet and was very popular, they expected resistance to their plan – they must have been pleasantly surprised and perhaps emboldened when the people began to join in with them and were soon yelling “crucify Him! Crucify Him!”

2 Thessalonians 2:7 “For the mystery of iniquity does already work...”

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

V: 3 This is a parenthetical account – a teaching inserted into the text to portray a contrast, but not in chronological order. Matthew and Mark are written by subject as opposed to absolute chronology. John gives us the time stamp.

John 12:1 “Then Jesus six days before the Passover came to Bethany...”

John 12:1-11 Parallel account / turn to and read.

- Jesus is in Bethany – 1 ½ miles from Jerusalem, modern day El Azariya (Arabic for the place of Lazarus).



- Jesus is in the house of Simon the leper, who had been a leper, implying that he'd been healed, and Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary are in attendance at the dinner.

- 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 to His disciples, why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners? ¹²When Jesus heard that, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³But go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice. For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

- “*a woman*”, identified as Mary in **John 12:3**
- Whenever we see Mary, she seems to be at Jesus’ feet.
 1. **Luke 10:39** Martha is cooking and serving, Mary is at Jesus’ feet, having chosen the better place.
 2. **John 11:32** Grieved over her brother’s death, Mary is pouring out her heart at the feet of Jesus.
 3. **Matthew, Mark, and John** all record that just a few days before His crucifixion Mary is again at the feet of her Master worshipping sacrificially.

“An alabaster flask / box of oil of spikenard very precious;”

- It was expensive ointment. 300 pence (**v: 5**), about a years wages.
- Considering the value of the gift, and the fact that Mary was un-married, could this have been her dowry?
- If this was her dowry, then she was essentially sacrificing her future to Jesus, a poor woman with no dowry would have no real hope of marriage.
- “**Costly oil of spikenard / “precious ointment”**” - Vine’s Bible Dictionary:
- Derived from the Pistacia Terebinthus, which grows in Cyprus, Syria, and Israel, and yields a resin of very fragrant odor, and in such small quantities as to be very costly. Then mixed with aromatic ingredients ... so when scented with the fragrant resin of the pistake it would be very expensive and valuable.
- Mary was more perceptive than the rest of the group, she anointed Jesus, responding to what He had said regarding His suffering, death and resurrection.
- Mary anointed both Jesus’ head and feet, then she wiped his feet with her hair. She demonstrated faith, humility, and love. **John 12:3**
- 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.”

- 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.

James 2:17-18 “¹⁷Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone. ¹⁸Yes, a man may say, you have faith, and I have works: show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

V: 4-5 Some were indignant among themselves, or so they thought. They were offended in their hearts at the perceived waste.

- “Some” – **John 12:4** identifies Judas Iscariot, the disciple who would betray Jesus as the primary culprit in the scenario.
- Jesus referred to Judas as the “son of perdition,” which means literally “son of waste”. **John 17:12**
- 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 money box; and he used to take what was put in it.”

- Bottom line, nothing sacrificed for Jesus is ever a waste!

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

- Mary's act of worship and sacrifice to Jesus showed not only love, but wisdom in God's word, she caught on to what the disciples missed, it was also timely.
- Later in **Mark 16** we read that the women were taking spices / oil etc to anoint Jesus' body, but He wasn't in the grave.

“... they criticized her sharply” - “... they murmured against her.”

- This is just another clue as to where they were at the moment – in the flesh!

Romans 8:8 “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

- 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 brings forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth that which is evil: for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”

V: 6 Jesus defended Mary, He always protects His own – Shepherd, Defender, Advocate.

- Judas and the disciples said it was a waste, meaning it was bad.
- Jesus said it was a good work, meaning that it was actually good.
- If Jesus says it's good, then it's good!

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

V: 7 We shouldn't make decisions based upon our “good ideas”, perceived needs, or even “spirituality,” but we need to know and understand the will of God is then simply do that.

Romans 12:2 “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

John 5:2-9 Healing at the pool of Bethesda.

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

V: 8-9 Mary couldn't stop the priests from falsely accusing Jesus, she couldn't stop Judas from betraying Him, or stop the crowd from turning on him, or keep Pontius Pilate from condemning Him, she couldn't keep the soldiers from crucifying Him – so she did what she could, she loved and worshipped Jesus.

- We can't stop the slaughter of Christians in far away lands, we may not be able to stop the slaughter of babies in our own land, or fix so many other injustices - but we can pray and we can love our Lord and worship Him.

Mary fulfilled the greatest commandment:

Matthew 22:37 “Jesus said to him, “you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

- Mary lovingly sacrifices and worships Jesus anticipating his death.
- 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.
- Remember that one of the gifts he received as a child was myrrh, **Matthew 2:11**, looking forward to his death and resurrection.

- What she has done will be spoken of as a testimony of her love and devotion to Jesus, and 2,000 years later here we are!

V: 10-11 *“Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve...” Really?*

- Judas demonstrated that it is possible to be “in” a group of believers and not be “of” them. Truly a “mixed multitude”.

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.”

Parallel passage:

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

- Satan entered into Judas, he conferred / 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.
- 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.

1 John 2:3-5 “³Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴He who says “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵But whoever keeps His Word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”

Lessons drawn from this incident:

1. Worship is costly. **2 Samuel 24:24 / 1 Chron. 21:24**
2. Worship involves brokenness.
3. Worship needs to be done in a timely manner. Better to do it now than to wait.
4. Mary had perceived something that the other disciples had missed. Time spent at Jesus feet led to greater understanding and timely worship.
5. Mary's act of worship was criticized by the other disciples, but the fragrance of Jesus permeated her walk.

V: 12 The Passover Lamb was selected on the 10th day of the month and examined for blemishes, then it was slain on the 14th day of the month.

- CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS DURING LAST WEEK:

13th Wednesday Last Supper Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 13.

- The Lamb had to be slain in the Temple precincts and the supper eaten within the Jerusalem city limits.
- The disciples are asking where Jesus wants to celebrate the Passover meal.

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

V: 13-16 A man bearing a pitcher of water would have been unusual, that task was seen primarily as “women’s work” – follow him.

- As you meet him, follow him to the house he leads you to, and say to the master of the house and say “The Teacher says to you...” and he will show you an upper room furnished and ready to go.
- It was a law in those days that each house had to prepare an extra room to take in guests because of the extreme over crowding during the 3 mandatory feast days.
- There make ready and prepare for the Passover meal.

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:
 1. Jesus sent John & Peter (**Luke 22:8**) to prepare things for the dinner.
 2. Shopping list: unleavened bread, bitter herbs, wine, un-blemished lamb.
 3. The lamb had to be inspected and slain in the temple with the blood having been put on the altar, then later roasted whole and served.
- The biggest difference between the way the Passover was practiced the first time to what it had become in Jesus’ time even until now was that it was a memorial, and they weren’t preparing to go anywhere – they had already arrived. No eating it with haste and so forth, hence the typical eastern table with pillows etc.
- Basically Peter & John found everything just like Jesus said and in humility were obedient to make the preparations.

Zechariah 4:10 “For who has despised the day of small things...?”

V: 17-18 In the evening Jesus and the rest of the 12 gather into the upper room.

- We move from Wednesday now to Thursday, the Jewish day ends at sunset, just as the new day begins.

Genesis 1:5 "... So the evening and the morning were the first day."

- As Jesus and His disciples gather for what we call the last supper, all the families in Israel are pretty much doing the same thing gathering for the Passover meal.
- As they sit down to eat Jesus announces that one of them shall betray Him.
- Kind of a dramatic bumper statement for the beginning of their meal together. Why now? Why this way?

2 Reasons:

1st Timing: Jesus initiated the sequence of events that would lead to His crucifixion, they didn't just happen to Him. It's all pre-arranged and being set in motion.

Acts 2:23 "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death."

John 10:17-18 "17Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18No one takes 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 command I have received from My Father."

2nd - Protocol:

1 Corinthians 11:27-28 "27Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup."

- Each of the disciples ends up examining their own heart prior to having communion.
- Jesus is God, He is omniscient, He knew all along who would betray Him, He had previously given a couple of discreet clues.

John 6:70 "Jesus answered them them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?"

V: 19 They were grieved. This initiates a time of soul searching, self examination. The question "*Is it I?*" Infers an admission that it could be any one of them.

- Part of our salvation experience and getting to know Jesus better is that we get to know ourselves better in the process and we realize more and more the depth of our own depravity and what we're capable of.

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

- They each begin to go through a soul searching thought process that ends with, “*Is it I?*”

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.”

- Notice that they didn't just all turn and point at Judas – they didn't suspect him at all.

- Leonardo Da Vinci painting the last supper: Jesus / Judas.
- Mural, 30' X 15' - 4 years.



- Each of the disciples knew that they were capable of betrayal and humbly assumed that it might or could be themselves. Heart searching time. To me this is an indication of maturity and growth on their part.

V: 20 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, “it is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.” And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. ²⁷Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.””

- Typically they would have been at a table that was low to the floor, “U” shaped (triclinium) so the servants could bring the food.



- They would recline on their side on a pillow or cushion and use their free hand to dip their bread & food in the sauces, etc.

- John's Gospel tells us that John leaned against Jesus' right side, this means that Judas was on Jesus' left side, the place of honor at the table.



- Betrayal: long predicted in Bible prophesy.

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.”

Psalm 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: 21 The Son of Man goes as it is written: Prophesying of Him. We’ve looked at a couple of prophecies about His betrayal, but there are others that go farther back - describing His sacrifice, all the way back to the book of Genesis.

1st prophecy regarding Jesus:

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

Isaiah 53:6 “All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

- Regarding Judas Iscariot:

Matthew 18:7 “Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!”

- Sometimes a contrast is necessary to discern light from dark, good from bad, often times it’s that comparison that drives us to the cross. (Mary / Judas)
- Judas heard this statement / judgment, he’s right next to Jesus, this was an opportunity to repent.

1 Corinthians 11:19 “For there must also be factions (heresies) among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you.”

- Sadly, this is all part of unveiling who Judas really is - because.

Psalm 51:6 “For God requires truth in the inward parts.”

“... *It would have been good for that man if he had never been born.*”

- That is true for any man that is not “born again” – any man presently in hell would wish the same; that they had not been born at all because hell is all too real.

Mark 9:44 “Where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.”

V: 22 John’s Gospel indicates that Judas Iscariot left just prior to communion.

John 13:27-30 “²⁷Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus said to him, “what you do, do quickly. ²⁸But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. ²⁹For some thought, because Judas had the

money box, that Jesus had said to him “buy those things we need for the feast,” or that he should give something to the poor. ³⁰Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.” (Darkness)

- Jesus broke the bread and blessed it: Jesus is instituting communion, the Lord’s supper, or “Eucharist” the Greek word meaning “to give thanks”.
- There is no indication that anything special happened to the bread and wine, they each remained as such. There is no Biblical basis for the false teaching of *transubstantiation*.
- What was transformed was the meaning of Passover, moving from an OT ritual of remembrance to a NT ritual of remembrance, moving from a type or model of redemption to the actual redemption by the blood of the Lamb.
- The elements of communion are intended as a representation of His body and His blood.

Jesus did say that He was “the bread of life” - that doesn’t mean that He was a loaf of bread.

John 6:35 “And Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. He that comes to Me shall never hunger; and he that believes on Me shall never thirst.”

John 6:48-58 (Turn to / read) We must partake of Him.

PROBABLE ORDER OF LAST SUPPER: (From Haley’s Bible Handbook.)

1. Disciples’ contention about who’s #1. **Luke 22:24**
2. Jesus washes their feet. **John 13:3-12**
3. Eating of the meal, first three courses out of four.
4. Jesus announces His betrayal, response “Is it I?”
5. Sop / bread dipped in sauce given to Judas, identified, he leaves. **John 13:26**
6. Communion.
7. Given a New Commandment: **John 13:34**

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

V: 23 The Passover feast commemorated God’s deliverance of Israel from their bondage in Egypt.

- 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.

Turn to:

Exodus 6:6-8 “⁶Therefore say to the children of Israel: I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their

bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. ⁷I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD.”

1st cup: “Kiddush” – the cup of sanctification, separation.

2nd cup: “Haggada” – the telling. Re-telling of the 10 plagues.

3rd cup: “Birkat Hammazon” – blessing, the cup of redemption. (Communion)

4th cup: “Hallel” – the cup of praise.

V: 24 Jesus explained that the cup (3rd) represented His blood which was shed for many, for the remission of sins. The cup of redemption.

- A new covenant, sealed with the blood of the Lamb. The old covenant, the Law; superseded by the new covenant which is the covenant of blood.
- OT = Law, NT =? Grace? Truth? NT = Covenant of blood.

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

- There are various clues in the Old Testament regarding the 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.”

- In the OT 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 has 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 has 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 makes atonement for the soul.”

Matthew 26:28 “For this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” He is literally sealing the deal in His blood.

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

V: 25 Jesus stopped short of that last cup / 4th 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, we’ll have the 4th cup when Jesus will partakes with us.

Speaking of the bride:

Revelation 19:8-9 “⁸And to her (bride) it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹Then he said to me, “write: blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

V: 26 **Psalms 111-118**, the Hallel psalms were traditionally sung at the Passover.

Psalm 111:1-2 “¹Praise the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation. ²The works of the LORD are great, studied by all who have pleasure in them.”

Psalm 112:1 “Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments.”

Psalm 113:1-2 “¹Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD! ²Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and forevermore!”

Psalm 118:1 “Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”

V: 27 Jesus said that they would “all” stumble because of Him this night.

- We often focus on Peter’s denial, but in reality they all stumbled and fled.

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

- “Stumbled / Offended” (G-4624). skandalizo, skan-dal-id'-zo (“scandalize”); to entrap, trip up, stumble. To entice to sin, apostasy or displeasure, to offend. A stumbling block.

Jesus is quoting:

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.”

- Speaking not just of the disciples, but also of the lost sheep of Israel.

V: 28 “*After*” not “if” Jesus is raised He will meet them in Galilee.

- Later the angel at the tomb reminds them:

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

V: 29 “*But Peter...*”^{KJV} Peter contradicts the Lord – which never goes well. Peter is being prideful, putting himself above the others. He’s forgotten the lessons about being like little children, or having his feet washed.

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

- Another way of putting it is to say that “this portion of the word of God doesn’t apply to me.” - Dangerous ground...

V: 30 Jesus responds by correcting / contradicting Peter with a very specific short term prophecy.

- Why three times? God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – total denial.
- We’ll see the fulfillment of this prophecy before the end of this chapter.

V: 31 Peter is even more vehement in denying the word of God, and the other disciples join in. Peter dug in his heels and the other disciples joined in with him.

Proverbs 29:23 “A man’s pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.”

1 Corinthians 10:12 “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”

V: 32-34 “*Gethsemane*” = olive press. This is where the olives are brought to be crushed and broken, the olive oil being extracted from them.

- Jesus moves from the upper room, and possibly the rooftop vines, the highest place – down through the Kidron Valley, down to Gethsemane, to the lowest place.
- The garden of Gethsemane is at the base of the western slope of the Mount of Olives, this not being the season to harvest olives, the “olive press” would be empty, deserted, and quiet.

- 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”

- Jesus divides the group; telling the majority of the disciples: “sit here while I pray.”
- Jesus takes Peter, James, and John, the inner circle a little closer to where he’s going to be.
- Peter, James, and John are told to wait and “*watch*”. I’ve always assumed that this word meant simply to pray – but what He is saying is simply watch and wait with Me.
- Jesus, at this critical time in His ministry, facing a gigantic spiritual battle simply wanted the company and fellowship of the believers.

Hebrews 10:25 “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching.”

- Jesus knows what is coming, it’s not just the scourging and His treatment leading up to the cross - it’s the separation from the Father that He dreads. MTF
- In Matthew’s gospel 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” - (G-1127) gregoreuo, “gray-gor-yoo’-o” i.e. watch, be vigilant, stay wake, be watch-full.

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

- What He told them, He’s told us:

Luke 21:36 “Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

V: 35-36 Jesus humbled Himself before the Father, falling upon the ground before Him.

- Jesus prayed! Facing this challenge, this spiritual battle – Jesus prayed!

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

Matthew's Gospel:

“... *if it were possible...*” If something else was possible, if there was another way, then Jesus died in vain. If it was possible to redeem man in any other way – then Jesus did not need to die upon the cross.

- There was and there is no other way!

John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father but by Me.”

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Romans 6:23a “For the wages of sin is death...”

Hebrews 9:22 “And according to the Law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”

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 atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that make atonement for the soul.”

“... *take this cup away from Me...*”

“*This cup*” While it did contain physical suffering and death, it's most horrid contents was our sin and God's indignation and wrath as a result of that sin.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He 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 says the Lord God of Israel to me; take this wine cup of fury from my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it.”

- It was also the understanding that “this cup” would lead to separation from God the Father.

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 *“¹My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Why are You 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 You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.”*

- When Jesus became sin the Father could no longer look upon Him.

Habakkuk 1:13 *“You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and can not look on iniquity:...”*

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

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

V: 37-38 After praying Jesus comes back to the “inner circle” and finds them asleep – and not watching.

- This is a picture of the church today – things are happening in the spiritual realm and the church is asleep spiritually.

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

- While they were all sleeping, Jesus specifically addresses Peter – who’d made the boast that he wouldn’t be like the others.

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

- Jesus now adds to His previous instruction; now He says “watch and pray”.
- The Spirit is willing, but the flesh wants to go the other way.

Galatians 5:17 *“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary to one another: so that you cannot do the things that you wish.”*

V: 39 Resigning Himself, purposing to do God’s will.

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

John 6:38 “For I came down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him that sent Me.”

John 12:23-27 “²³And Jesus answered them, saying, the hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. ²⁴Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor. ²⁷Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour.”

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

Galatians 2:20 “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives 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.”

V: 40-41 He is faithful even when we are not faithful.

Philippians 1:6 “Being confident of this very thing, that He which has 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: 42 There is probably a gap between this verse and the previous, otherwise it wouldn't make sense.

V: 43 Jesus has just woke His disciples up when Judas “*one of the twelve*” - along with a contingent of troops show up to arrest Jesus.

- Peter / Mark describes them as “a great multitude” – the other Gospels describe this contingent as a – “band” or a “co-hort” which was a 10th of a legion or 600 men.
- They came prepared with swords and “staves” or spears.
- Coming from the chief priests, scribes, and elders they may have been part of the temple guard along with Roman soldiers.
- This is overwhelming force, “just in case” - prepared for resistance.

V: 44-45 The bust sign was to be a kiss – hereafter known as the “kiss of death”.

“**Rabbi, Rabbi**” - “**Master, master...**” (G-4461) rhabbi, hrab-bee'; my master, Rabbi, as an official title of honor.

- This duplicity is the perfect example of what Jesus described earlier in this Gospel.

Mark 7:6 “... well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.”

V: 46 “**And they laid their hands on Him...**” Not right away they didn't - there are some slight gaps in this abbreviated chronology.

John 18:4-7 “⁴Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to the, “whom are you seeking?” ⁵They answered Him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am.” And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. ⁶Now when He said to them, “I am,” they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷Then He asked them again, “whom are you seeking?” And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.”

- Then they laid their hands on Him and arrested Him. (Because He allowed it!)

V: 47 The other Gospel accounts identify Simon Peter as the wannabe swordsman. Peter doesn't identify himself, he might not have looked favorably upon his own actions.

Matthew's Gospel records our Lord rebuking the would be swordsman:

Matthew 26:52-54 “⁵²But Jesus said to him, “put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?”

Luke's Gospel describes what happened next:

Luke 22:50-51 “⁵⁰And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹But Jesus answered and said, “permit even this.” And He touched his ear, and healed him.”

- One of the last miracles performed by Jesus.

V: 48-49 You had all these different opportunities to take Me if you had chosen – what was the difference? Why now as opposed to earlier? Primarily God's timing.

“... **the scriptures must be fulfilled.**” All part of God's prophetic plan from the beginning of time.

- God's word must be fulfilled:

Peter declared:

Acts 1:16 “Men and brethren, this scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David ...”

Psalm 138:2 “I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your lovingkindness and for Your truth: for You have magnified Your Word above all Your name.”

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers, the flower fades: but the Word of our God shall stand for ever.”

V: 50 They all forsook Him. Peter will later follow from afar, John will show up at the cross, but for now they all forsook Him.

Psalm 88:8 “You have put away my acquaintances far from me...”

John 16:32 “Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.”

- The disciples were all good men, but they were just men.

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

V: 51-52 It is believed that John Mark who personally recorded this Gospel upon Peter's dictation is describing his own personal experience.

- Mark at this point would have been about 12 or 13 years old. His family, his uncles are all involved with Jesus. I can see a young adolescent teen ager hanging around, listening, observing, taking it all in.
- Then like everyone else, when the guards show up, he scatters just like the rest. There were several times when I went to arrest someone or stop them from fleeing that I grabbed their clothing because that was all I could get, only to have them spin or twist out of their clothing leaving me with a jacket in my hand and not the person.
- Considering the details about only having a linen cloth around his naked body and fleeing naked is difficult to determine what was going on with that. Perhaps he was home asleep in his bed when he hears a commotion, this large group of soldiers moving through the city late at night; first going to the upper room in search of Jesus, then making their way to the garden of Gethsemane. Being awakened suddenly he grabs a sheet or linen cloth from his bed and runs out to see what's going on and gets caught up in things.
- We're not given enough information to really determine.

Isaiah 61:10 “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness...”

- One way or another, he was eventually clothed.

V: 53 They led Jesus away to the high priest and the assembly of the chief priests, elders, and scribes. Assembled at the “palace” of the high priest. (V: 54)

- The Sanhedrin was already assembled in the middle of the night. Night court. Rooster’s crow starting at about 3-4 AM.

Matthew 26:57 “And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.”

John 18:13 “And led Him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year.”

- Caiaphas was the high priest appointed and acknowledged by the Romans, he was the son in law to Annas - the high priest acknowledged by the Jews as the legitimate high priest.
- They actually lived next door to each other, so for Jesus to be taken to Annas’ house first where he was condemned by Annas, the true power behind the priesthood, then taken next door to Caiaphas’ house for the official public condemnation was a fairly simple matter.

- St. Peter’s Gillantru / Belvedere:



- It was done in secret to keep the people out of the loop. It would all be accomplished before the people even realized what was happening and hopefully there would be no uproar or reaction to it.
- In any event this was an un-lawful assembly, it was a violation of the law and contrary to God’s word which forbids judgment or trials between sunset and sunrise.

Exodus 18:13 “And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening.”

Isaiah 29:15 “Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say who sees us? And who knows us?”

V: 54 “*But Peter followed Him at a distance / afar off...*”

Micah 6:8 “He has shown thee, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

Deuteronomy 30:20 “That you may love the Lord your God, and that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him: For He is your life, and the length of your days...”

“...into the courtyard / palace of the high priest...”

- There are just some places we’re not supposed to go. We need to set boundaries for ourselves, lines that we won’t cross.

“... and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire.”

- We need to be careful not to get too comfy cozy with the enemy.

Psalms 1:1 “Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.”

1 Corinthians 15:33 “Do not be deceived: evil company corrupts good behavior.”

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

2 Corinthians 6:14, 17 “¹⁴Be ye not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? And communion has light with darkness?” – “¹⁷Therefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, say the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”

Proverb 12:26 “The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.”

V: 55-56 They weren’t looking for witnesses to bear witness to the truth, they were looking for incriminating witnesses against Jesus.

- “We’re going to give Him a “fair trial,” then we’re gonna hang Him.
- The bottom line is that they are going to execute Jesus, they just want the pretense or the appearance of having done it lawfully.

Deuteronomy 19:18-19 “¹⁸And the judges shall make inquiry, and indeed, if the witness is a false witness, who has testified falsely against his brother, ¹⁹then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother; so you shall put away the evil from among you.”

- This warning is should have been a deterrent. If they got caught, they'd be crucified - a good deterrent.
- They needed two witnesses that could agree, even if they were "false."
- 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 sins: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established."

V: 57-59 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."

V: 60-62 Annas may have been getting impatient and seemingly intervenes, prodding now to elicit a response.

- Up to this point Jesus had been silent:
- 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.
- Matthew's Gospel gives clarity to why Jesus responded at all to the high priest.

Matthew 26:63 "But Jesus held His peace and the high priest answered and said to Him, I adjure you / I put you under oath by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God!"

- 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.

John 6:35 "**I AM** the bread of life. "

John 8:12 "**I AM** the Light of the world.

John 10:9 "**I AM** the door."

John 10:11 "**I AM** the Good Shepherd."

John 14:6 "**I AM** the way, the truth, and the life."

John 11:25 "**I AM** the Resurrection & life.

John 15:5 "**I AM** the Vine."

John 8:58 "Before Abraham was, **I AM**."

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 mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.”

V: 63-65 “*You’ve heard the blasphemy...*” (Did you?)

- In any event, it was unlawful for a High Priest to tear his clothes in the traditional expression of grief as others did.
- The high priest wasn’t just wearing regular street clothes, he was wearing the sanctified robes of the High Priest - he was in uniform.

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 tear his clothes;”

- It was totally unlawful to treat Jesus this way.

Leviticus 19:35 “You shall do no injustice in judgment, in measurement of length, weight or volume.”

The Apostle Paul received the same treatment:

Acts 23:3 “Then Paul said to him, God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! For you sit to judge me according to the law, and do you command me to be struck contrary to the law?”

Deuteronomy 25:1-3 Describe that you cannot beat an un-condemned prisoner.

- All this is happening just as it was prophesied it would:

Isaiah 50:6 “I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I hid not hide My face from shame and spitting.”

Isaiah 52:14 “Just as many were astonished at you, so His visage / His face was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men;”

V: 66-68 Jesus is being beaten and abused, and Peter is warming himself by the enemies fire, that is until he’s challenged by a maid, a servant girl.

- “*You also were with Jesus of Nazareth.*” - “Not me, I don’t know what you’re talking about...”. And he fled or retreated to the porch...

“*...and the rooster crowed.*” (The first time)

V: 69-72 Peter is challenged twice more, both times he denies the Lord, even with cursing and swearing.

- 3 denials, then the cock crows the 2nd time – bringing to his recollection the words of Jesus that he'd argued with and denied.
- Luke says that as this came to happen somehow Jesus and Peter's eyes met.

Luke 22:60-61 “⁶⁰But Peter said, “man, I do not know what you are saying! Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, “before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.”

- Peter wept, he went out and wept bitterly (**Matthew 26:75**) – but thankfully it didn't end there.

2 Corinthians 7:10 “For Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces 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 really know Jesus. If he had he would have known to go back to Him, 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 5:3-4 “³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” (That's Peter after his denial...)

[After Jesus' resurrection:](#)

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

[Jesus made it a point to help Peter be restored:](#)

John 21:15-17 “¹⁵So when they had breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (agape) Me more than these? He said to Him, “yes Lord; You know that I love (phileo) you.” He said to him, “feed My lambs.” ¹⁶He said to him again a second time, “Simon son of Jonah, do you love (agape) Me?” He said to Him, “Yes, Lord; You know that I love (phileo) You.” He said to him, “tend My sheep.” ¹⁷He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love (phileo) Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” (phileo) And he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love (phileo) You.” Jesus said to him, “feed My sheep.”

Acts 2:14, 41 “¹⁴But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.” – “⁴¹Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousands souls were added to them.”

- Peter is not only restored; but goes on to be used mightily of God.
- Going back a little and looking at Peter’s denial of Christ, there were some things that preceded his denial that we should examine and if possible avoid so that we don’t make the same mistake.
- **Peter’s denial** didn’t just happen. There are actually 6 identifiable steps that led up to his denial of Jesus.

1st step: V: 29 over confidence & pride.

2nd step: V: 29-31 He denies, ignores the word of God.

3rd step V: 37 - he is not watching, he’s sleeping instead of praying.

4th step V: 47 Peter taking action vs: trusting God’s plan.

5th step V: 54 Peter followed Him at a distance.” This is never a good place to be!
You only get there from back sliding.

6th step V: 54 He got comfortable with the enemy, sitting at the enemies fire.

- It matters who we hang out with.

1 Corinthians 15:33 “Be not deceived: evil company corrupts good manners.”

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- **Application: do the opposite**

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

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

Proverbs 3:5-7 “⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding. ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. ⁷Be not wise in your own eyes, fear the Lord, and depart from evil.”

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

Psalm 119:9 “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.”

Proverbs 8:34 “... blessed are those who keep My ways.”

3. Sleeping instead of watching & praying: **Watch & Pray!** (Just do it!)

1 Thessalonians 5:17 “Pray without ceasing.”

Luke 21:36 “Watch therefore, and pray always, that you 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: **Be still, wait on the Lord.**

Isaiah 49:23b “...For they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me.”

Psalm 130:5 “I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word do I hope.”

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

Psalm 63:8 “My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.”

John 15:5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

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

6. Sitting with the enemy: **Avoid friendship with the world.** Don't get too cozy!

James 4:4 “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Psalm 1:1 “Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful.”

1 John 2:15-17 “¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”