

The Plot Against Jesus (Matthew 26:1-5)

Jesus, after finishing His teachings, turns to His disciples and foretells His crucifixion:

"You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." (v.2)

This is a clear declaration of His mission—to be the ultimate Passover Lamb. While Jesus speaks openly, the religious leaders plot in secret. Their concern is not righteousness, but timing; they fear an uproar among the people (v.5).

Application: Do we align ourselves with Christ's mission, even when it's difficult, or do we act in secrecy, preserving our comfort over God's truth?

The Anointing at Bethany (Matthew 26:6-13)

A woman anoints Jesus with expensive perfume, a lavish act of love. Judas, thinking about the financial waste, objects. Jesus defends her:

"Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me." (v.10)

Her act was prophetic—preparing Jesus for burial. Wherever the gospel is preached, her deed would be remembered.

Application: How do we worship Jesus? Do we give Him our best, or do we hold back? True worship is sacrificial, pouring out our love regardless of what others think.

Judas' Betrayal (Matthew 26:14-16)

Judas agrees to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, fulfilling prophecy (Zechariah 11:12-13). He chooses money over the Messiah.

Application: What is our price for compromising Christ? Do we trade Him for comfort, ambition, or sin?

The Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-30)

Jesus shares the Passover meal with His disciples, instituting the Lord's Supper:

"Take, eat; this is My body... Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (v.26-28)

A new covenant is established—not by law, but by His blood.

Application: When we partake in communion, do we reflect on Christ's sacrifice? Does His broken body and shed blood humble us and lead us to gratitude?

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial (Matthew 26:31-35)

Jesus warns the disciples they will stumble, quoting Zechariah 13:7. Peter, full of self-confidence, insists he will never deny Christ. Jesus reveals Peter will deny Him three times before the rooster crows.

Application: Do we rely on our own strength to remain faithful to Christ? Like Peter, we may think we are strong, but only by God's grace can we stand firm.

Gethsemane: The Agony of Jesus (Matthew 26:36-46)

Jesus, overwhelmed with sorrow, prays three times:

"O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."
(v.39)

Yet the disciples sleep. Jesus acknowledges, *"The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."* (v.41)

Application: Do we submit our will to God, even when it's painful? Are we spiritually awake or asleep when God calls us to prayer?

Jesus' Arrest (Matthew 26:47-56)

Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss, and Peter, in misguided zeal, strikes a servant's ear. Jesus rebukes him:

"Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword." (v.52)

Jesus could summon twelve legions of angels, yet submits to the Father's will.

Application: Do we respond to opposition with human strength or surrender to God's plan? Are we willing to endure suffering for Christ?

The Trials and Denials (Matthew 26:57-75)

Jesus faces an unjust trial before Caiaphas. False witnesses accuse Him, yet He remains silent. When asked if He is the Messiah, He boldly proclaims:

"You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."
(v.64)

The religious leaders condemn Him to death, spit on Him, and mock Him.

Meanwhile, Peter follows from afar. When confronted, he denies Jesus three times. After the rooster crows, Peter remembers Jesus' words and weeps bitterly.

Application: Are we bold in confessing Christ, or do we distance ourselves when it's risky? Peter's story reminds us that failure is not final—Jesus restores the repentant.

Conclusion

Matthew 26 is a powerful chapter of betrayal, sacrifice, and faithfulness. We see human weakness contrasted with Christ's unwavering obedience. It calls us to deep reflection:

- Do we truly worship Christ with all we have?
- Do we rely on our strength or trust in His?
- Do we watch and pray, or are we spiritually asleep?
- Do we stand firm in trials, or do we falter like Peter?

Yet, even in failure, there is hope—Jesus restores. Let us cling to His grace, walk in obedience, and proclaim His name boldly.