**The Mission of Christ**

Matthew 26:1-35

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Kingdom Come! (Gospel of Matthew Series)

Prepared by: Matthew S. Black

Sunday, March 19, 2017, 10:30am at Living Hope Church of Roselle, Illinois

**livinghopechurch.net**

“I thought I could have leaped from earth to heaven at one spring when I first saw my sins drowned in the Redeemer's blood.”

**~ C.H. Spurgeon**

**Outline**

This passage records the most important events in human history. Matthew 26-27 record the substitutionary atonement of Jesus. How we see Jesus effects our destiny.

* How do we see Jesus’ mission?
  + The leaders see Jesus as an ***interruption***
  + Judas sees Jesus as an ***opportunity***
  + Mary (sister of Lazarus) sees Jesus as ***Lord and Savior***
  + The disciples understand who Jesus is, but not fully
* How does Jesus’ see his mission? (explained in the Last Supper)
* How do the disciples see his mission? (We will deny him, but he will never deny us)

**Proposition**: If we see Christ as he is we will give all to him.

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pen your Bible to **Matthew 24**.We are getting back to our series in the book of Matthew entitled “Kingdom Come.” This morning we are looking at a message entitled: “The Mission of Christ.”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. **Welcome to our Visitors!**
2. **Aaron Brewster** is here with us. He is the host of the podcast Truth. Love. Parent. He is also helping lead a ministry for residential discipleship for young men called, “Victory Academy for Boys.” Please be sure to see him after the service and get more info at his table in the lobby.
3. **Small Groups:** Get connected with small groups. They are listed in your bulletin. One correction: the Roselle small group with the Blahas meets tonight.
4. **New Members’ Class** begins Sunday April 23 during Sunday School at 9:30am.
5. **Dennis and Nancy Mitchell**: last Sunday, gifts and card.

**The Mission of Christ**

What is your mission in life? When I worked as a propeller shop employee in New Orleans at my first job, my mission was to help make excellent overhauled propellers.

When I was a cook at Ponderosa, my mission was to make excellent stakes.

Since I became a Christian my mission has been to grow and change in Christ and to reach others and serve Christ in the local church.

Jesus’ mission was to die on the Cross so that we could be born again and be brought into conformity to His image.

What is your mission? Our mission is to lift high the cross so that people can know Jesus and be made like Him!

We see Jesus’ mission in Matthew 26-28.

**The Holiest Ground of Scripture**

Jesus has just given the Olivet Discourse in which he has revealed that he is the King of kings and all people will appear before his tribunal on Judgment Day.

The next two chapters (Mt 26-27) are all about the **Atoning Sacrifice of the King**. Jesus is the Messiah that was foretold – He came not only to **wear a crown** but to **suffer and die on a cross**. Jesus is the One who would “save His people from their sins” (1:21). Someone said Mt 26-27 is the **Mount Everest** of God’s love. Saints, this is the **holiest ground** of Scripture.

**Jesus Proclaimed Himself as Ultimate Judge / King of kings**

Jesus has revealed himself in the parable of the Sheep and the Goats to be the Final Judge of the world, the true Messiah. He has **proclaimed this publicly** that all nations will appear before him and be separated like the sheep separated from the goats. Jesus is the God-man. He is Almighty God. Jesus says in **Mt 25:31-32**, “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”

But wait, something shocking begins in Matthew 26. In the next two chapters, we see the All-powerful God become the Lamb of God slain for sinners. The Mighty Lord becomes the meek Lamb.

**Christ’s Deity and His Death**

So **Matthew 25** closes with Jesus announcing his **Deity** and **Matthew 26** begins with Jesus announcing his **Death**! **Mt 26:1**, “When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples, 2 “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

What? The Lord of glory crucified? Everyone in this chapter looks at Christ differently.

* For the chief priests and leaders of Israel, Jesus is an ***interruption***.
* Judas sees Jesus as an ***opportunity***
* The disciples understand who Jesus is, but ***not fully***. They see him as a ***liberator*** from Rome.
* Mary (sister of Lazarus) sees Jesus as ***Savior and Lord***

**The Sovereignty of God in the Cross**

Everyone in the chapter is headed in different directions, but truly, God the Father is absolutely sovereign in each of these events.

Each one in this chapter, for good and for evil contribute to the timeline of Christ’s death. We see that God is working all these events to the great substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ. At times, it looks like chaos, but it is all divinely orchestrated.

**The Irony of the Cross**

The Cross is a mystery and an irony! Isn’t it amazing that God can use even the most sinful act in humanity, the crucifixion of our Lord, to bring about the most gracious act for humanity, the salvation of the human race?

**How Do You See Jesus?**

How do you see Jesus? It’s our goal at Living Hope that each of you grow and change into the image of Christ. But how do we do that? You cannot grow in Christ if Christ doesn’t have control of every aspect of your life. Are you holding anything back from him? Is he Lord over every crevasse in your heart?

Think deeply now. (pause) Is there anything in your life right now that offends the Lord? Is there anything that God is grieving over in your life?

You may not know how to give it to God, but are you *willing* to give it to God in prayer right now? I hope you will see Jesus Christ as the one who has the divine right to your soul.

1. How do **You** see Jesus? Mt 26:1-25.

How you see Jesus will affect your eternal destiny. John said, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (Jn 1:19). How do you see Jesus Christ?

We see two kinds of people who reject Jesus’ mission: the Jewish leaders and Judas Iscariot. They conspire together to destroy Jesus. It’s ironic that in putting him to death, they are fulfilling his mission without knowing it.

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1. **THE LEADERS SAW HIM AS AN INTERRUPTION** (Mt 26:3-5)

Some people don’t want Jesus to have control of their lives. We meet some of those people in **Mt 26:3-5**, “Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, 4 and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. 5 But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

Jesus had just revealed to the crowds that he is the Messiah and that one day he will be the judge sitting on the throne judging the nations as Judge of the whole earth.

Immediately after proclaiming his own kingdom and the need for all to repent and come to him by faith, the elders and leaders of Israel “plotted together” to arrest Jesus “by stealth and kill him.” Can you hear the echoes of **Psalm 2** here? “Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?... the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.” 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.”

**Irony: Arresting the Son of God by Stealth**

Do you see the irony here? How do you arrest the Son of God by stealth? He knows all. He knew their plans 10,000 years ago. Peter says in **Acts 2:23**, “Jesus” was “delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God” even though he was “crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”

**For the Jewish Leaders, Jesus was an Interruption**

Jesus was an interruption to the plans of the Jewish leaders. The life of Jesus was a great disruption to the ambitions of these Jewish leaders.

* They knew the Hebrew Bible well
* Playing church was their favorite thing
* They loved singing with the congregation
* But they didn’t love Jesus
* All their Psalms and Scriptures were about him, but they didn’t love him. They didn’t love the Messiah

When they looked at the Messiah, they saw him as an **interruption**. So they plotted to kill him. They were plotting to give him to the Romans so they could trick the people. They didn’t want riots in the streets.

**Not During the Passover So as Not to Cause Riots**

**Mt 26:5**, The Jewish leaders said, we can’t take him during the feast of Passover “lest there be an uproar among the people.” The people had been healed by Jesus. The multitudes had felt his touch. He healed the sick, made the blind to see, had paralyzed people walk, and he raised people from the dead. And he did much more than what is recorded in the Gospels.

**The Multitude**

The leaders were right in fearing the people. Jerusalem’s population swelled perhaps to five times it’s normal size during the feast. Two hundred thousand additional people would flood into Jerusalem.

People had been healed by Jesus and they knew Jesus. Many saw him as some kind of Messiah, though none would fully understand who he was until after his resurrection.

There was so much excitement for Jesus that arresting him would certainly spark riots from the crowds. The Jewish leaders decided to suspend their plan, but Judas’s offer to hand Jesus over at a time and place when the crowds were not present was too good an opportunity to pass up (vv. 14– 16). Thus in God’s providence, everything Jesus said about His own death (vv. 1– 2) would come to pass.[[1]](#footnote-1)

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| **Jesus an Interruption? (Application)**  There are many in the church today who love church. They love singing. They may love studying the Bible. But Jesus is an interruption to them. Church is a hobby to some people. They like the power they may get in a position in the church.  People are glad to go to church. They like the nostalgia of singing as a community. But do you go to church for Jesus? Is Jesus your life. For the born again Christian, Jesus in not an interruption. He is our all and all. He is our King of life.  For the true Christian, we want Jesus to interrupt anything that we are doing that doesn’t please him. |

1. **JUDAS SEES JESUS AS A SELFISH OPPORTUNITY** (Mt 26:14-25)

**Mt 26:14-16**, “Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, “**What will you give me** if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.”

**Thirty Pieces of Silver**

This is the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy of **Zechariah 11:13**, “they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. **13**Then the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver.”

Judas sold Jesus for the price of a slave. He wanted nothing more to do with Christ. He cut a deal with the priests for 30 pieces of silver. According to Ex. 21:32, this is the price of a slave. Christ was nothing more than a piece of merchandise to him.

**Judas, the Privileged Disciple**

This was the last thing anyone would have thought of Judas. We learn something about Judas by his name: “Judas Iscariot.” By him having the name Judas, or “Judah,” we know he likely grew up in a very devout Jewish family.

Iscariot means man of Carioth. His surname tells us he grew up in a suburb of Jerusalem. He was likely from a very devout and privileged home. He was learned more than the other disciples. He was trusted.

Judas sat under the greatest Teacher in the history of the world, and yet he remained unconverted.

Now we see Judas had beforehand made a deal with the Jewish leaders to gain an opportunity if he were to sell out Christ.

For Judas, Jesus is just a piece of merchandise.

**The Upper Room**

Jesus now sets the stage for his death, and he wants to explain that he is going away. He gets an upper room in Jerusalem, perhaps the home of John Mark. We see this upper room again, perhaps at Pentecost where the 120 are anointed with tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit. But here and now they are meeting for the Last Supper.

Even in the great event of His death, you can see that Jesus is orchestrating the events. He is absolutely Sovereign.

Mt 26:17-19, “Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?” 18 He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” 19 And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.”

**Exposing the Hypocrite**

But it is during the Last Supper that Jesus exposes the hypocrite that Judas is.

**Mt 26:21-25**, “When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. 21 And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” 22 And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” 23 He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” 25 Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

In John 13:2 we read, that it was “during supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him.” The devil now had a beachhead and a control center in the heart of Judas Iscariot. Judas’s soul was filled with the devil.

When Jesus said, “One of you will betray me” (**John 13:21**). Judas was so undercover in his hypocrisy that they all rose up and said, “Is it me Lord?”

You know the account in **John 13:27** – Jesus handed a morsel to Judas and said, “What you do, do quickly” because Jesus knew this was a part of the sovereign plan of God. He knew that Judas’s days would be short as it was prophesied in **Psalm 109:8**, “May his days be few; may another take his office!”

So Judas sells out the Son of God. Soon a crowd of the Jewish leaders will come and arrest him.

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| **Jesus an Opportunity? (Application)**  Many people see Jesus as merely an opportunity. They love what Jesus can get them, but **they do not love Jesus**.   * Some people see Jesus as a **lucky rabbit’s foot**. When we were in Spain, people would have the “sacred heart of Jesus” symbol on their door to ward off evil spirits. * Some people like the idea of **how Jesus enhances their reputation.** * Some people like Jesus because **they want a better life now**. They think Jesus will bring them prosperity. They are not willing to give their life for Christ. They just want Jesus for their 30 pieces of silver. |

Why do you love Jesus? Do you love him for what he can get you? What is your motive?

1. **MARY SEES HIM AS LORD AND SAVIOR** (Mt 26:6-13)

Let’s look back at verse 6 and see this story of Mary the sister of Lazarus. It seems marry is the only one who really understands the mission of Christ.

**Mt 26:6-7**, “Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table.”

John adds, “she poured it on Jesus’ feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume” (John 12:3, NIV).

Although it appears here in events that are just days before the Passover, it actually takes place earlier. According to Jn 12:1 it took place six days before the Passover. So St. Matthew is making a point with including this precious story in the midst of all that was happening.

**Sitting at Jesus’ Feet**

Every time we see Mary, she is sitting at Jesus feet.

* At her home, Martha is serving, but Mary has chosen the better part to sit and learn at Jesus’ feet.
* In her grief by her brother Lazarus’ grave, she crumples down at Jesus’ feet.
* And now in Simon the leper’s house, she is weeping at Jesus feet anointing him with oil and preparing him for his death and burial.

It seems Mary, this friend of Jesus, understood the mission of Jesus more than even his own disciples. He was going to need to die, and she was willing to give the ointment for his burial.

**The Context**

They are at Simon the leper’s house. Here was a leper that had been healed, and they wanted to celebrate. If you had been healed, wouldn’t you want to celebrate? You also have the disciples including Judas. Mary, Martha and perhaps Lazarus are there. And of course, most importantly, we have Jesus here.

**The Extravagant Sacrifice**

While Jesus and the disciples are reclining for a meal, she breaks the top of the alabaster perfume bottle. She breaks the top off and she gives all she has.

The fragrant oil was “expensive ointment made from pure nard” –**Jn 12:3**. Mary of Bethany (one of two Marys who anointed Jesus’ feet) has this burial perfume that was worth a year’s wage (vs. 14 – worth 300 denarii). This wasn’t just any perfume. It was pure nard. It was oil taken from a plant growing in India. And with great expense and sacrifice it was transported from the far east to the middle east. The cost was so high that it was worth an entire year’s salary for the common man.

**WHAT COSTLY WORSHIP!**

**Extremely Costly Ointment**

You don't give God something that doesn't cost you anything. David said, "I will not give the Lord that which cost me nothing.” It’s commented later that it is worth 300 denarii, which is more than a year’s wages for a common laborer.

**Cost of Denarii**

A soldier in the Roman armies would make 300 denarii in a year. That was a soldier’s wage. And so this was, perhaps, for someone who was a year’s wages. And so the disciples are more than a little annoyed.

One denarii is a day’s wage for a laborer, so this is almost one year’s wages. In today’s money, it would be around $30K.

**Why Such Extravagance?**

***Question***: Why was Mary’s worship so extravagant and costly?

Mary was in the presence of two walking miracles.

* + - 1. Jesus had just raised **Lazarus** from the dead.

And so we have the ex-dead man seated with Jesus eating at dinner. John tells us that it was Mary of Bethany who anointed Jesus (Jn. 12:3), so ***Simon was possibly the father of the family*** of Mary, Martha and Lazarus .[[2]](#footnote-2)

* + - 1. It’s very likely that **Simon** the leper is the father of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha.

Now Simon was a leper and undoubtedly, although the Bible doesn't say it, Simon had been cured from his leprosy otherwise he would not have been back eating in his house. He wouldn't have even had a house. He would have been in a leper colony. Remember the laws in Israel prohibited lepers from living among the general population. And it's very likely that Simon's leprosy had been cured by Christ since there was no other cure in existence.[[3]](#footnote-3)

***So Mary’s brother is an ex-dead man, and her probable father is an ex-leper. When a person sees the power and beauty of Christ, there is no offering that is too costly***

**The Family Heirloom**

So Mary is overflowing with love and adoration for Jesus. She knows He’s going to die and rise again. She sees not so much his humanity but that she’s standing in the presence of God. So she looks for the most expensive thing she has. She finds the family heirloom, an alabaster box of precious ointment. This is a family heirloom to take care of her. She is a single woman. This is her life and security.

**What’s so Special about the Alabaster Flask?**

Alabaster was translucent, probably white like glass. So Mary found this very costly family heirloom of costly perfume of pure nard the text tells us.

The perfume nard was extracted from the roots of the spikenard plant, found in the Himalayan Mountains in Nepal and India and China **a long way from Palestine**. The manufacturing of it and **transportation of it to Israel would have been outrageous**.

And to top it off, normally the perfume was mixed with olive oil, pure olive oil so it could be used as an ointment. And it’s important to note that it was so beautiful a fragrance, that it was sometimes used as an ointment to put on the bodies of those who had died in preparation for burial.

**The Sweet Aroma vs. the Smell of the Ancient World**

This costly sacrifice was a sweet aroma. This was a day and age far removed from modern convenience and external hygiene standards. There was not much of a sewer system. In other words the normal daily smells in ancient society were not pleasant.

So an alabaster box or bottle of costly perfume would have been strikingly beautiful and pleasant.

The cost of the alabaster flask is a year’s wage – a massive amount of money. She without hesitation breaks the flask and pours this precious ointment over Jesus’ head.

**MARY UNDERSTANDS JESUS MISSION, BUT DISCIPLES DO NOT**

**Judas Was Greedy**

Judas didn’t understand Jesus’ mission. He was just greedy. With spiritual words as a smokescreen, Judas tries to hid his greed. **Mt 26:8**, It doesn’t say, but it is Judas who says: “Why this waste? 9 For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.” **John 12:6** gives us insight. “Judas said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.” Of course Judas is not concerned about the poor. He said this because he wanted to pilfer the moneybag!

**The Disciples Didn’t Understand the Mission.**

The Disciples didn’t understand Jesus’ mission either. **Mt 26:8-9**, “And **when the disciples saw it, they were indignant**, saying, *[And Judas speaks up]* “Why this waste? 9 For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.”

**MARY IS SO CAPTIVATED SHE FORGETS HERSELF**

Mary fell at Jesus’ feet. She didn't care who was watching. It was if no one else was in the house when Mary went to Jesus' feet—like no one was even there. You say, "Wasn't she embarrassed?”

**Mt 26:7** says, she “poured it over his head”.

**John 12:3** gives us even more tender details of Mary’s worship. Let’s look at John 12:3, “Mary therefore took a pound of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and **anointed the feet of Jesus** and wiped his feet with her hair.”

In shocking disregard for Jewish tradition, she knelt down at His feet and let down her hair to wipe the Lord’s feet. No Jewish woman ever let her hair down in front of men[[4]](#footnote-4)—but she wasn’t in the presence of just a man. She was in the presence of God in human flesh. Ans so she took her hair and began to wipe the Lord’s feet.

She was on the floor like a servant wiping Christ’s feet with her hair, I mean that's very embarrassing. There wasn't anybody there in her mind. She was worshipping in the very presence of God in human flesh. It didn't matter who said what, she could have cared less.

**Jesus Memorial for Mary**

**Mt 26:10**, “ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me.”

Mary did a remarkable thing! She gave all she had! This alabaster box was likely a family heirloom. But what is the most precious thing you own and have compared to the beauty of Christ?

Those things done from simple, real love for Christ become His treasure.

**Picture from Katie—Building Garage in Spain**

***Example***: I have on my wall a picture that Katie made me when she was much younger. It’s not the Mona Lisa. But it is a picture of us together when we were in Spain and we built a garage next to our home. Why is this precious? Because it Katie had “done what she could”. It is a simple expression of pure, innocent love. It’s all she had to give me, and she gave all she had. It is precious. That’s the worship that is precious to Christ. Your pure, simple extravagant, innocent love for Him.

**Jesus’ Treasury**

Jesus has a lot of strange things in his treasury: widows’ pennies, cups of water, broken alabaster vases, and all of our simple attempts to love Him. Has he anything of yours? Give what you have. Do you feel the impulse to do something beautiful for God? [[5]](#footnote-5)

**MARY ANNOINTS CHRIST FOR BURIAL AND CORONATION**

**Mt 26:11-12**, “For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. 12 In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. 13 Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

Listen those who remember and understand the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ have remembered Mary’s sacrifice.

**Christ Anointed King by a Woman**

Every king in Israel was anointed before his coronation, and this was Christ’s anointing. But notice Christ is not anointed by a ***prophet*** but by a ***woman***. And this was far more than a coronation—it was even more a symbolic preparation of Christ’s body for burial. Christ would be the suffering substitute for Mary. She knew this.

**What an Amazing Gift**

What an amazing gift of ointment Mary gave to Jesus, but Jesus gives a greater gift to Mary and to all who believe.

1. How does **Jesus** see His Mission? Mt 26:26-29

Our Lord is approaching the very moment he was brought into the world. He has already announced his mission on many occasions.

He did so as they were near Capernaum in **Matthew 16:21**. “From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”

He did so again in **Matthew 17:22**. “As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.”

He keeps warning of his coming death again in **Matthew 20:18**. “See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death 19 and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day!”[[6]](#footnote-6)

**The Hour of Jesus’ Mission has Arrived**

Jesus’ hour to complete his mission has come. He announces it in verse 2 of our text, “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

So many times when the leaders tried to arrest and kill Jesus, he got away. But this time, he will not get away. This is the hour. His time has come!

**Jesus Commemorates His Mission**

Jesus commemorates his mission with the Last Supper.

**Matthew 26:26**, “Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”

Here Jesus the sacrament of the Lord’s table in the last supper. This is a new covenant in Christ’s blood. What does that mean?

**The Passover Seder**

Now Jesus celebrates the Passover Seder with his disciples. He has taught them much about his mission (Jn 12-16).

In the Old Testament, the Jews celebrated the Jewish Passover standing up. They would slay a lamb at the Temple and bring the lamb filets back to there home and celebrate.

Imagine the astonishment of the disciples. Jesus is departing from the script of the Passover Seder. Normally, the head of the meal would read from Deuteronomy 26 and say, “*This is the bread of our affliction*”. Jesus now says in essence: “This is the bread of ***My*** affliction”.

**Jesus is the Main Course**

When Jesus stands up to bless the food, he holds up the bread. All Passover meals have bread. He blesses the wine. All Passover meals have wine. But not one of the Gospels mentions the ***main course***. There is no mention of the lamb.

“There was no lamb *on* the table because the Lamb of God was *at* the table.”[[7]](#footnote-7) - Tim Keller

Jesus was the main course. Jesus was changing the script, because He was the fulfillment of the True Lamb of God that Isaiah spoke about in Isaiah 53:

**Isaiah 53:4-6**, “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. 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.”

Jesus’ body was stricken, smitten by God and afflicted! His body was wounded for my transgressions.

**Lessons from the Cup**

**Mt 26:27**, “And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”

Propitiation: Jesus Mission is to be the propitiation for our sins. His blood is poured out in place of many for “forgiveness of sins.”

Cup of Wrath: Jesus must substitute himself so that God’s wrath can be satisfied. He must drink the cup of God’s wrath so we don’t have to drink the cup of His wrath.

**Applications**

1. **Feed on Jesus.** When Jesus says we are to take the bread and drink in the cup, He’s not telling us to eat healthy. He’s saying “Feed on Me in your hearts by faith”. You can have a meal piled in front of you, everything you like cooked to perfection, yet you can still starve to death. To be nourished by a meal, you have to ***eat*** it.
2. **Dine with Jesus.** Jesus calls us to a personal meal with Him. He calls us to come and dine with Him. What is it that you are to eat? You and I are to take in Christ’s unconditional commitment to us. Jesus calls you into personal relationship with Him. That’s what the meal is all about. You don’t dine with strangers. If you are to have the benefits of His perfect substitutionary sacrifice for you, then you need to accept His invitation.
3. **Follow Jesus.** Jesus says in **verse 25**, “Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God”. Like Moses, Jesus is leading us out of the land of bondage. Imagine you were in Egypt just after that first Passover. If you stopped the Israelites in those days and said, “Who are you, and what is happening here?” they would say, “I was a slave, under a sentence of death, but I took shelter under the blood of the lamb and escaped bondage. Now God lives in our midst and He is leading us to the Promised Land.”
4. How do the **Disciples** see Jesus’ Mission? Mt 26:30-35

The disciples see the Lord more as a Liberator than the Savior of the world. Jesus explains to them that he is going to die and he warns them that they will all fall away.

They let him know that they are fully committed. There is no way, they say, that they will fall away.

Jesus prophecies Peter’s denial that very night.

**Matthew 26:30-35**, “And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 31 Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ 32 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” 33 Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” 34 Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” 35 Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same.”

You see the disciples are not faithful to Jesus’ mission. And sometimes we are not faithful to Jesus’ mission.

But aren’t you glad that Jesus IS FAITHFUL to his mission? He will as Matthew 1:21 says, “save his people from their sin.” That’s his name: “YHWH saves.”

**Jesus Must Suffer and Die Alone**

They said it, but none of them was ready for what was about to happen. Peter indeed would deny Jesus three times. In fact all the disciples were on such an earthly level. Like all of us, they thought they were far more spiritually advanced than they were. The truth is that night they would all desert Christ and be scattered.

Christ is ready to go to the Cross alone. Christ has prepared for this all His life. He warned of it over and over. Now all His disciples would be scattered. ***Jesus would partake of the cup of God’s wrath alone.***

**Gethsemane is Coming**

Jesus is going from here to the Garden of Gethsemane. He’s going to the Cross. He understands his mission. All will forsake him. Only John will be there as Jesus dies.

**Conclusion**

What is your mission? Behold the Christ! See him as worthy of all your resources. He deserves your time, your efforts, your love, your worship.

The disciples did not understand Christ’s mission. They would all be scattered and Peter would deny him.

But understand this. Look at Christ. Behold Him for who he is.

You may deny him, but Christ will never deny you. He has come into this world to save his people from their sins! Hallelujah!

**Small Group Questions**

1. (Ice Breaker) What happened in the last two weeks for which you are thankful?
2. What did you hear in the sermon (on the mission of Christ from Mt 26) that was surprising, challenging, troubling, or useful? Explain.
3. What was Jesus’ mission on earth (Mt. 1:21)?
4. Does your mission and goals in life line up with Jesus’ mission? How?
5. How does the mission of LHBC work with Jesus’ mission?

(Living Hope Bible Church exists to glorify God by bringing people to Jesus and membership in His family, helping them to grow and change in Christlike maturity, and equipping them for service to God in the local church and in mission to the world.)

1. Jesus announces in Mt 25:31-32 that he is the “Son of Man,” i.e. the Messiah who will come on Judgment Day in power in glory from the book of Daniel. Why is it ironic that the chief priests and Jewish leaders are plotting to put the Judge of the earth to death “by stealth” or trickery? How does this relate to Psalm 2, where it says the Lord “sits in the heavens and laughs” at the plotting of men against the Lord and his Anointed?
2. Like the Jewish leaders, there are many people who play church, and love the Bible and the congregation for all the wrong reasons – they see Jesus as an interruption. As a true born again Christian, what are some areas of your life that you want Jesus to interrupt and put you back on the right track?
3. Judas loved what he could get from Jesus and sold our Lord for 30 pieces of silver. What are some ways in your life you love God’s blessings and what you can get from him more than you love the Lord?
4. Mary, the sister of Lazarus, was so caught up in worship of Jesus that she poured the alabaster flask of fragrant ointment (a family heirloom worth perhaps $25K in today’s money) on Jesus head and then washed his feet with her tears. What is your alabaster box? How do you serve Jesus extravagantly?
5. The disciples got angry with Mary’s extravagant worship. Jesus said to his disciples, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me” (Mt 26:10). Do you ever hold back from worship because of fear of man or people pleasing? Also, talk about how fixing our eyes on Jesus (Heb 12:1-2) can help us not be a slave to people pleasing.
6. In the Passover Seder (Mt 26:26ff), there is no lamb mentioned in any of the Gospels. How is it that Jesus is the Lamb (Jn 1:29)? How does this relate to Jesus’ mission to give his life for his people? How are you comforted by the fact that Jesus is the Lamb who takes away your sins?
7. Since Jesus is our Passover Lamb, what are some ways that you feed on him and fellowship with him? How would you guide a new believer to “feed” on Jesus?
8. The cup of the Passover represented Christ’s “blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” How is Christ’s blood a propitiation that forgives and frees us from the shame and stain and penalty of our sins?
9. The Lord warned Peter he would deny him three times that night, and yet Peter insisted: “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same” (Mt 26:35). What are ways that you have experienced that when you have denied Jesus, he has never and will never deny you? How has Jesus brought you back from backsliding? How has he humbled you when you were proud?
10. Are there any ways your life does not line up with Jesus’ mission? Can you truly say “I am crucified with Christ” (Gal 2:20) and that you have been crucified to this world? What areas of your life need to be crucified?

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3. MacArthur, John. *Commentary on Mark*: Mk 14:1-11). Chicago, Ill., USA: Moody Press. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. MacArthur, Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
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6. Boice, J. M. (2001). [*The Gospel of Matthew*](https://ref.ly/logosres/boicecm61bmt;ref=Bible.Mt26.1-16;off=2066;ctx=rest_and_execution.$0A~Jesus_has_been_prepa) (p. 550). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Timothy Keller. *King’s Cross* (New York: Dutton, 2011), 167. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)