

Matthew 26:30-75

Day 1

In Gethsemane. Read Matthew 26:30-46

Jesus Predicts the Disciples' Desertion

1. Where did Jesus and the disciples go after the meal and what did Jesus tell them? 26:30,31
2. What hope did He give them in the midst of this devastating revelation? 26:32
3. How did Peter react? 26:33 (How sincere do you think he was?)
 - What did Jesus know? 26:34 (Compare 1 Corinthians 10:12)
 - Even though demoralizing at the moment, how would telling Peter about his defection ahead of time, help him afterwards?
4. What did Peter and the others say they were willing to do? 26:35 (Consider: Were they willing to **fight** and die for him? John 11:16; 18:10)

Jesus Prays in the Garden

5. How did Jesus face His coming ordeal and death? 26:36,37 (How was being in Gethsemane playing into the hands of the enemy? John 18:1,2)

FYI: "Gethsemane (which means 'Press') was east of Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives. In the place where olives were crushed and ground, the One anointed with oil was crushed and rent. This was the third time that Jesus singled out Peter, James, and John to accompany Him for a specific purpose (see the transfiguration in 17:1-3 and the raising of Jairus's daughter in Luke 8:49-50)"
- The Nelson Study Bible (1627)

6. List the words that describe how Jesus felt about the cross. 26:37,38a

7. What comfort did Jesus seek? 26:38b

Watch "gregoreo Strong's NT:1127, "to watch," is used (a) of "keeping awake," e. g., Matt 24:43; 26:38,40,41; (b) of "spiritual alertness" - Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words

8. What was Jesus' prayer request? How did He limit it? 26:39 (See John 6:38)

FYI: "**Cup** is a figure of speech for wrath in the Old Testament (see Ps. 75:8; Isaiah 51:17) Jesus became a curse for us and took the brunt of God's righteous wrath against sin (see Gal. 3:13)" - The Nelson Study Bible (1627)

"If it is possible, let this cup pass: God the Father would never deny the Son any request, because Jesus prayed according to the heart and will of the Father. Since Jesus drank the **cup** of judgment at the cross, we know that it is not **possible** for salvation to come any other way. Salvation by the work of Jesus at the cross is the only **possible** way; if there is any other way to be made right before God, then Jesus died an unnecessary death." - David Guzik

9. What help did Jesus need during this time? Luke 22:43 (Cf. Matthew 4:11)

- How fervently did He struggle? Luke 22:44 (What do you think the nature or substance of this struggle/temptation/attack might have included?)

10. Underline what Jesus had to bear or become on the cross:

- 1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. NIV
- Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." NIV
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. NASU

FYI "As horrible as the physical suffering of Jesus was, this spiritual suffering - the act of being judged for sin in our place - was what Jesus really dreaded about the cross. This was the *cup* - the cup of God's righteous wrath - that He trembled at drinking (Luke 22:39-46, Psalm 75:8, Isaiah 51:17, Jeremiah 25:15). On the cross, Jesus became, as it were, an enemy of God who was judged and forced to drink the cup of the Father's fury. He did it so we would not have to drink that cup." - David Guzik

11. How well did the disciples do at comforting Jesus? 26:40 (Compare Peter's determination and bravado in 26:35.)

- What did they need to do? 26:41 Why was Jesus concerned for them? (Consider: What would they soon be facing?)

Digging Deeper

For verses on being alert, see
1 Corinthians 16:13;
Ephesians 6:18; 1
Peter 5:8.

12. How did Jesus' second time of prayer differ from the first? 26:39, 42

- How many times did Jesus ask to be spared? 26:42-44 (What does that say about asking God for something more than once?)

13. What was the answer to Jesus' prayer? 26:45 (What state were the disciples in again? See Mark 14:40)

Betrayed Strong's NT:3860 *paradidomi*; to surrender, i.e. yield up, intrust, transmit

14. What understanding did Jesus have about His arrest? 26:46 What does this show about His control of the situation? (See John 10:18; Philippians 2:8)

15. What does Hebrews 12:2 say concerning Jesus' feelings about the cross and the reason that He endured it? (What "joy" did He have after the cross that He didn't have before?)

Applying the Word: What does this example of Jesus' understanding of Peter's sins and failures, coupled with His provisions to restore and work in Peter's life, say to you about God?

Day 2

Jesus Arrested. Read Matthew 26:47-56

16. Who came to arrest Jesus? What state were they in? 26:47 Compare John 18:3

FYI: "A detachment (John 18:3) was a cohort of about six hundred men...However, sometimes this Greek word was used for one third of a cohort, or two hundred men. These soldiers were probably the experienced Roman troops stationed at the Antonia, a fortress near the temple. The officers who came with the detachment were members of the temple police under the command of the Jewish council, the Sanhedrin." - The Nelson Study Bible (1800)

17. How did Judas reveal Jesus' identity? 26:48,49 How do you think this made Jesus feel?

18. How did Jesus respond to His betrayal? 26:50 Note the titles Judas and Jesus used to address each other.

Digging Deeper

In John 18:6, see the problem the soldiers had when trying to arrest Jesus.

Food for Thought: "Between the dismissal of Judas from the upper room and the actual arrest in the garden, at least two hours must have elapsed. In that time Jesus could have left Jerusalem and have been well on His way...to some hiding place where the Jewish leaders could not have found Him. Judas' betrayal would have recoiled on himself, since he would have failed to produce Jesus, and undoubtedly the priests would have wreaked the vengeance of their disappointment on him. At one stroke Jesus could have saved Himself and could have disposed of the traitor. Why should He have gone deliberately to the place where Judas would surely look for Him, and wait until the traitor came to capture Him?"
- Merrill Tenney (254,255)

19. What courage did one of the disciples, Peter, (see John 18:10) show? 26:51

- Why did Jesus tell the disciples not to fight? 26:52 (How else did Jesus protect His disciples? John 18:8)
- What else did Jesus do? Luke 22:51

FYI: "With one sword, Peter is willing to take on a small army of men. Yet he couldn't pray with Jesus for one hour. Often prayer is the very hardest, and best work we can do...When Peter moved in the power of the world, he only cut off ears. But when he was filled with the Spirit, using the Word of God, Peter pierced hearts for God's glory (Acts 2:37)."
- David Guzik

20. What other reason did Jesus give for why it was unnecessary for them to fight? 26:53

- Why didn't Jesus call for this aid? 26:54 (From John 18:36, what is another reason?)

FYI: "A legion in the Roman army was about six thousand men. When one considers the power of one angel, as seen in the Old Testament (see... 2 Kings 19:35), the power of more than 72,000 angels is beyond comprehension. Jesus had all of heaven's power at His disposal, yet He refused to use it."
- The Nelson Study Bible (1627)

21. What did Jesus confront the "crowds" about? 26:55

- Why do you think Jesus repeated the reason for His arrest to the crowds? 26:56

22. How would you explain the disciples fleeing at this point? 26:56b

Applying the Word: *Even in this dark hour, Jesus was reaching out in love to all, even His enemies. What does that say about the battle between man's will and God's will, between good and evil and between fear and love? i.e. Which one has the power to change lives and the course of this world in the long run?*

Day 3

Jesus Before the Sanhedrin. Read Matthew 26:57-68

23. Who was assembled with Caiaphas? 26:57

- What did Peter do? 26:58 Why was he allowed in? John 18:15,16

FYI: "The Lord Jesus was subjected to six trials - three Jewish trials and three Gentile trials. The first Jewish trial was before Annas, who was not the actual high priest, but was a powerful influence on the high priest's office. This trial is mentioned only by John (see 18:12-23). The second trial was before Caiaphas and the Jewish council. Clearly the council had been hastily called together....Jesus' opponents were trying desperately to find some legal basis for condemning Him to death."
- The Nelson Study Bible (1629)

24. How did the leaders attempt to charge Jesus? What problem did they encounter?
26:59,60 (See Mark 14:56)

- What does the law say about this? Exodus 23:1-3; Deuteronomy 19:16-19

Digging Deeper

When questioned earlier by Annas, how did Jesus challenge them? John 18:19-23

FYI: "There was to be no formal charge until witnesses had been heard and been found to be truthful. It was the High Priest's duty to call forth the witnesses first, *beginning with those for the defense*. These basic legal protections for the accused under Jewish law were not observed in the trial of Jesus." - David Guzik

25. What false testimony did they finally focus on? 26:61
About the magnitude of God's love?

- What had Jesus really said? John 2:19-21

26. How did Jesus respond to this accusation? 26:62,63a (See Isaiah 53:7,8)

27. How did Jesus respond to the next question? 26:63b,64 (Why do you think He answered this one and not the other?)

28. By referring Psalm 110:1 "*Son of Man sitting at the right hand*," what warning was Jesus giving then?

- By referring to Daniel 7:13,14 "*coming on the clouds of Heaven*," what was He saying about Himself and His authority?

FYI: "Jesus isn't at this trial to defend Himself. We think of the amazing defense He *could have* made. Jesus could have called witness after witness, and pointed to irrefutable evidence that He was indeed **the Christ, the Son of God**. But He knows that these hardened hearts care nothing for the *facts* of this case, so He simply testifies to the truth: ***It is as you said.***

Jesus did add...a warning...that though they sit in judgment of Him now, He will one day sit in judgment of them - and with a far more binding judgment."
- David Guzik

29. How did the high priest respond to Jesus' testimony? 26:65 (What was the other conclusion he could have made?)

Digging Deeper

For other instances when Jesus was accused of blasphemy see: John 5:18; 8:58,59; 10:30-33.

- What did the council conclude? 26:66

30. What had Jesus told them about the error of their judgments about Him? John 8:13-19

31. What do their subsequent actions (26:67,68) say about them? (See Romans 1:28-30)

FYI: "The trial of Jesus was a mockery of justice. It is ironic that the Son of God, who is just, was denied justice in His world. It is even more ironic that the Sanhedrin, ostensibly the custodians of God's word of truth, should find themselves having to create false evidence."
- Africa Bible Commentary (1167)

Applying the Word: What different reasons do people have for clinging to or protecting a false belief so strongly that they refuse to even consider the truth? Have you ever found yourself refusing to consider another side to an argument for the wrong reason?

Day 4

Peter's Denials. Read Matthew 26:69-75

32. Record how Peter denied knowing Jesus.

- 26:69,70
- 26:71,72
- 26:73,74

33. What other detail about Peter's denials do you learn from Luke 22:61-62?

34. What effect did the rooster's crowing have in Peter? 26:75 What impact does the word "*immediately*" have?

35. From Luke 22:31,32, what understanding, assurance, and hope had Jesus given Peter before it ever happened? (What do you think Peter might have done if he had not known this?)

36. From John 21:15-17:

- What three-fold public affirmation (to replace his three-fold denial) did Jesus have Peter make?
- What was the focus that Peter needed to have to continue on?
- What ministry was Jesus entrusting him with and what did that say about the Lord's assessment of him?

37. What did Jesus tell Peter about his future? John 21:18

- In what way would this have restored and encouraged Peter even more? John 21:19a

38. What final command did Jesus give Peter? John 21:19b (Compare Matthew 4:18-20)

Applying the Word: How has the Lord helped you go on after failure? What focus do we need to have? (What makes focusing on our sins and failures foolish? 2 Peter 1:8,9)