

A Different Path to Success

Jesus Betrayed and Abandoned Matthew 26:1–46

*“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me.
Yet not as I will, but as you will.”* Matthew 26:39b

1. Read Matthew 26:1–16. Who initiates the plot to kill Jesus? (verses 3–4) Why are they afraid to arrest Jesus during the day while he is out in public?

2. What does the woman in verses 6–13 understand that the disciples don’t? How has Jesus’ prophecy about her been fulfilled?

3. Read Matthew 26:17–35. The Passover is normally a joyful family celebration. As Jesus sits with his closest friends, what are the things that are on his mind? (verses 20–25; 31–35)

4. Consider Judas. He has been with Jesus all along just as the other disciples have. Where has he gone wrong?
 - a. How does he react to the incident at the home of Simon the Leper in verses 6-13? (see John 12:4-6)

 - b. Why does the incident in Matthew 26:14–16 follow close on the heels of Jesus’ anointing and what does it reveal about Judas’s heart?

 - c. How does Judas’s response to Jesus at the Last Supper differ from that of the others? (Matthew 26:22, 25)

 - d. What role does Satan play in Judas’s fall? (Consider Luke 22:3 and John 13:21, 26-30)

5. What is the new meaning that Jesus gives to the bread and wine normally served at the Passover meal? (verses 26–29)

6. Why do Christians continue to eat this meal together? (verse 28; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26) What does eating the Lord’s Supper mean to you?

7. Read Matthew 26:30–35. Jesus, like a good shepherd, is concerned for his sheep. He knows that his coming ordeal will be too much for them, and like frightened sheep they will all panic and run (verse 31). What two things does Jesus tell the disciples in verse 32? Why are they so significant? (Matthew 28: 5–7, 20; John 16:19–22)

8. Peter’s desires and intentions seem good, but what do his replies show? (verses 33, 35)

9. Read Matthew 26:36–46. What observations can you make about how and what Jesus prays in these verses? How can you apply some of these observations to your own prayer life?

10. List the names of some people that you know, who are going through their own “Gethsemane.” After studying this passage, how will your prayers for them be different?

11. What is the difference between the cup that Jesus gives the disciples (verses 27–28) and the cup that he must drink? (verses 39, 42; Isaiah 51:17)

12. Look back over this week’s passage. What is it about Jesus—who he is and what he does—that you are thankful for? (Psalm 118:26-29)