

Introduction:

- Chapter 26-28:15 could be labeled rejected, killed, and vindicated.
- The climax that Jesus predicts in 16:21 now begins to unfold.
- Chapter 26 is mostly concerned with Jesus opponents and by the end of the chapter His fate is sealed.
- We will also see that inspire of 3.5 years with His disciples, He will do this alone.
- The resurrection will reverse the human verdict in 28:1-15.
- We must remember that as Matthew is telling the account he is sending us a message...“Why is all this necessary?”
 - The titles thrown at Jesus on the cross
 - the tearing of the temple curtain
 - the raising of the dead at the time of Jesus death
 - Most of all what Jesus himself had to say about Himself at the passover dinner...using passover language with ‘new’ understanding.
 - Is. Suffering Servant Mt 20:28
 - the declaration of His mission in 1:21 *“And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”*

I. The Setting of the Stage

- A. vss. 1-2; 17-19 give us the specific setting. Remember all chapters 21-28 happen in a period of about 7 days. They come to Jerusalem for Passover and they come because of Jesus divine mission
 1. Note the word ‘all’ used by Mt in verse 1. This is the first time that is used in regard to Jesus teaching. In other words, there will be no more teaching by Jesus.
 2. Verse two lets the reader know that Jesus is not being taken by surprise in these verses. He is willingly submitting to the plan of the Father! No man takes His life. He gives it.
- B. vss. 3-5; 14-16 Makes us aware of what the Pharisees and Sadducees are planning. The authorities come against Jesus and Judas the traitor is set in motion.
 1. At the same time Jesus is telling the disciples these things the religious leaders are holding a secret meeting to plot Jesus death.
 2. It is not by mistake on Jesus part that all of this is happening at Passover. Jesus is intentionally making a point.
 3. The religious leaders are moving with Gr. ‘dolos’ craftiness or decept.
- C. And in the midst of all this, the woman with the anointing oil comes to anoint Jesus for burial.
- D. “All this is to be understood in the context of the Passover, the festival of God’s redemption of his people and the occasion of the covenant which constituted Israel as the people of God.” France, R. T. (2007) (p. 969). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.

II. A Woman Anoints Jesus 6-13

- A. Mt. Mk, and John all three tell this story at the start of their passion narrative.
- B. She is to be remembered but has no name.
- C. What she did and its significance is more important than her name.
- D. What makes this scene important is that it is an affirmation of the value of His death from the point of view of faith. To the reader it is easily seen as to what one does to a king or priest thus declaring messianic understandings.

E. Vs 13. Jesus' words indicate that He does not see His death as the end but the Good News as the beginning!!!

III. Judas Betrays Jesus 14-16

- A. Judas' act of betray is set in contrast with the woman's incredible devotion.
- B. The reader is prepare for this because Matthew has repeatedly spoken of Jesus being 'handed over.'
- C. Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. *"And I said to them, "If you like, give me my wages, whatever I am worth; but only if you want to." So they counted out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—this magnificent sum at which they valued me! So I took the thirty coins and threw them to the potter in the Temple of the Lord."* (Zechariah 11:12-13, NLT)
- D. Judas will die with the title, paid informer, betrayer, son of perdition.

IV. The Disciples Eat The Passover With Jesus 17-30

- A. This is Jesus last hours with His disciples. Seems sad to say that having been with them all through the Book of Matthew. From 4:18 this has been the story of Jesus and His disciples not 'Jesus alone.'
 1. They have been a part of the action, the stories, and the teachings. They have been both companion and audience. Assistants and mentored.
 2. Jesus has worked to prepare them for this hour.
 3. 26:56 they will all abandon him and have no more contact until after the resurrection.
 4. The passover meal therefore become His one last time to prepare them for what is about to take place. The Passover would literally be His illustration.
 5. The last meal. This family setting is the place where they last share their lives together.
 6. vs. 29 leaves them with the vision of eating in the Father's Kingdom with them and verse 32 prepares them to return to Galilee to re-connect.
- B. The meal
 1. Jesus declare he will be betrayed but no one knows who it is. If they had they would have clearly tried to stop it.
 2. Jesus in vs 24 further prepares his disciples by letting them know this is not happening because of politics but because of the scriptural fulfillment
 3. All of the disciple use the word Lord to ask Jesus, Is it I? In Matthew the disciples never use the word Rabbi to refer to Jesus. They always call him Lord. When Judas uses the word Rabbi, Matthew associates him with those who are outside the group of the disciples.
 4. Verse 29 stands in contrast to verses 26-28. It points to the triumphant end "together again in *my Father's Kingdom*."
 5. They sang Ps 113-118 and went out to the mount of Olives.

Conclusion:

- Matthew begins the end/climax of his Gospel with
 - Jesus warning I will be handed over and crucified. At same time religious leaders are plotting his death.
 - Jesus is anointed, His death is valued by the woman.
 - Judas agrees to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.
 - Jesus shares the last supper.
- All these reaffirm the mission both historically and theologically.
- The stage is set!