



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King will be Betrayed!

Matthew 26:1-16

Message #71 of 80 – S1111

Sermon given on July 21, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King will be Betrayed!!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 26**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King will be Betrayed!!**
- Chapters 24 and 25 looked ahead to Jesus' Second Coming.
- Matthew turns our attention back to his present and to Jesus' fast-approaching appointment of the cross.
- Besides Christ, two other characters are the focus of our text today.
- One, whose very name is a message of betrayal, Judas Iscariot, and another, a woman who expresses radically extravagant love, faith, and worship.
- I think it ought to be obvious which one we ought to try to emulate.
- **Matthew 26:1-2**
- Passover that year began on a Friday, so, Jesus is saying this on Wednesday.
- The very next day He would be betrayed and handed over to the Jewish religious leaders, falsely accused, beaten, abused, and mocked.
- Jesus says, "You know..." because He had told them several times (**Matthew 16:21**).

From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

- Jesus knew He would be crucified – He knew everything that was coming – and He went anyway. Because He loves us too much not to.
- While Jesus is talking with His disciples, another, more sinister meeting is taking place.
- **Matthew 26:3-4**
- Months before they had determined that Jesus needed to die (**John 11:49-53**).

And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all,⁵⁰ nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.”⁵¹ Now this he did not say on his own *authority*; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation,⁵² and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.⁵³ Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.

- He was too much of a threat to their control over the common people.
- ‘by trickery’ – They had no concern about justice.
- But they knew they couldn’t get away with just assassinating Jesus.

- **Matthew 26:5**

- Passover drew massive crowds.
- The religious leaders were concerned the people would riot if they arrested Jesus.
- Most of the common people believed Jesus was a prophet.
- Some even believed He was the Messiah.
- The religious leaders wanted to wait until most of the people had left after Passover. That would be about a week later.
- That was the religious leaders’ plan, but God had another plan.
- But first, a beautiful picture of sacrificial love.

- **Matthew 26:6-7**

- Bethany was east of Jerusalem on the south slopes of the Mount of Olives.
- This is where Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead, and his sisters Martha and Mary lived.
- Simon had been a leper, and it is likely Jesus healed him at some time in the past.
- This is a similar event to John 12, where it is Mary, Lazarus’ sister pours spikenard ointment on Jesus’ feet.
- That event is said to have happened six days prior to Passover.
- This unnamed woman pours perfume on Jesus’ head two days prior to Passover.
- Some see this as the same event – maybe.
- It just seems odd that Matthew and John, both eyewitnesses, would have different memories of this event, but that is possible.
- The details of the event are far less important than the event itself.

- I prefer to see them as separate events but wouldn't argue with someone who saw them as the same event.
- This woman comes humbly to Jesus with an extravagant expression of her love for Him.
- The disciples are not impressed.
- **Matthew 26:8-9**
- “Why this waste?” In John's account it was Judas Iscariot who said that this, where he is also described as a thief who would steal from the common purse of Jesus and the disciples.
- **Matthew 26:10**
- The disciples called this act a waste of resources they could use to do good for the poor.
- Jesus counters their objection by saying she had done a good work for Him.
- There is an important lesson here for all of us.
- In the previous message we saw that God expects His people to do what they can to meet the needs of those around them.
- And if we are doing that in faith then we are doing it to or for Jesus.
- It is not uncommon when we sense a call to help the needy that we wonder if we are wasting our resources.
- Will they appreciate it if I do this?
- Are they just trying to take advantage of me?
- Are they going to waste what I give them or do for them.
- These are all natural questions, but they are all the wrong questions.
- The question you need to answer is, “Lord, what would you have me do in this matter?”
- Listen, just because someone comes to you with a need, doesn't mean God wants you to meet that need.
- He may have a plan for them that doesn't involve your help.
- It might even be that your help will delay God's help.
- We should always be willing to help and be generous with others.
- But we need to be letting the Holy Spirit guide and direct us.
- Over my time as a believer, I have had countless opportunities to help others.

- Sometimes I sense God saying yes – sometimes I sense God saying no – and sometimes I don't sense anything at all.
- If I hear yes, I try to be as generous as I can.
- If I hear no, I try to graciously decline to help.
- If I don't hear anything, I use my best judgment, but I tend to be generous.
- If you trust God, and respond to the Holy Spirit in faith, whatever you do will be pleasing to God.
- The needy person you help might waste what you give them, but that is on them, and God will deal with them in His own time.
- **Matthew 26:11-13**
- There are always going to be people who are poor in the world.
- That doesn't mean we shouldn't try to help them out of their poverty, but not at the expense of serving and worshipping God.
- Wisdom is needed to balance the two things.
- 'Me you do not have always' – Means Jesus would not be there in the flesh so they could minister to Him as this woman has.
- The text shifts suddenly from this beautiful scene of radical love to despicable betrayal.
- **Matthew 26:14-16**
- Jesus told His disciples, including Judas, that He would be delivered to the authorities (verse 2).
- Judas' apparent motive for betraying Jesus was greed.
- Thirty pieces of silver was not a great amount of money.
- It was a historically significant amount.
- It was the value of the life of a servant (**Exodus 21:32**).
- If the ox gores a male or female servant, he shall give to their master thirty shekels of silver...**
- And then in a verse that is connected to the Servant of God – the Messiah, it was how much His service was worth (**Zechariah 11:12**).
- Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.**
- The religious leaders wanted to wait until after Passover, but they couldn't pass up this golden opportunity to have one of Jesus' own followers betray Him.

- It was worth the risk of angering the crowds.
- Turn to **Exodus 12**.
- What they don't know is that Jesus had to die on Passover.
- John the Baptist referred to Jesus in a way that no one had before him (**John 1:29**).

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

- Passover was celebrated every year to remember God's miraculous deliverance of the people of Israel from more than 400 years of slavery in Egypt.
- God delivered them with His sovereign, omnipotent power.
- Displayed in a series of ten plagues.
- The tenth and final plague was the death of the firstborn sons of Egypt.
- The angel of death was going to fly over every home in Egypt and kill every firstborn son, both of men and animals.
- Exodus 12 tells us how God protected the Jews from the last plague.
- **Exodus 12:1-5**
- Jesus is the lamb without blemish.
- **Exodus 12:6**
- The religious leaders gave Judas the thirty pieces of silver on the twelfth day of the first month.
- Jesus would be crucified on the fourteenth day of the first month.
- **Exodus 12:12-13**
- Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
- Passover in Exodus 12 was a foreshadowing of Jesus on the cross.
- Turn to **Romans 3**.
- Jesus had an appointment that had been set in eternity past.
- Jesus was Lamb of God and He had to die in Jerusalem on Passover.
- Paul tells us a little about that too.
- **Romans 3:21-26**
- God told the Israelites that they needed to stay in their homes, marked with the blood of the lamb to be saved from the angel of death.
- By faith they did that and were saved.

- In a similar way we are saved by faith by believing that the blood Jesus shed saves us from the judgment our sins deserve.
- The woman who anointed Jesus' head understood something about what was coming, and it moved her to a radically extravagant expression of love, faith, and worship.
- This causes me to examine my own life.
- When was the last time I was extravagant in my love, faith, or worship.
- I am going to pray, for myself, and for you, that we would be extravagant Christ-followers, whatever that means for each of us.
- Jesus said that woman's expression of faith love, and worship would be remembered wherever the gospel is preached.
- Her extravagance made a difference in the world around her.
- Let's pray that we can make a difference too!
- **Pray! Last Song!**