

JESUS' LAST WEEK:

THE BETRAYAL IS SET AS THE PASSOVER SETTING IS PREPARED

Monday, April 11, 2022

SCRIPTURES OF THE DAY

Matthew 6:10; Matthew 6:31-33;
Matthew 26:14-25



STUDY & REFLECTION

The next few days, the last days of Jesus' life on earth are critical and important. Jesus has prepared those close to Him and now readies Himself to share with them the last meal or supper. It is important to reflect on the *climate* and *condition* of all those involved. Jesus, knowing all things, shared with them that His "*time has come*," (Matt 26:18) Note the tenderness and the intimacy of Christ's relationship with His disciples. He wants to share the Passover, the Last Supper with them.

Matthew revealed that Judas, the treasurer of the group had consorted with the chief priests to *betray* Jesus for 30 pieces of silver! (Matt 26:15)

BETRAY: *to deliver or expose to an enemy by treachery; to violate a confidence or relationship by secret disloyalty.*

Although he was one of the twelve...loved and taught by Jesus Himself, Satan and human nature got the best of Judas and he was willing to betray Jesus. **Jesus knew all this, and was undaunted from His mission.**

Can you imagine what it was like after Jesus announced at the setting of the Passover meal, the Last Supper, that one of them would betray Him?.....

And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.

Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said. (Matt 26:21-25)

The betrayal by one so close to Jesus was a shock and a surprise to the twelve, **but not to the Savior.** Jesus had warned them of this, early in His ministry, (John 6:70-71) *Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.*

The magnitude and depth of emotions that occurred in our scriptural references are almost too difficult to image. As Jesus is intent in sharing His last full meal with those close to Him, He lets them know that one of them is the betrayer. How could one, chosen by the Lord, present during the miraculous ministry of Jesus, a disciple trained by the Lord, commit such an act?

- How could one so favored by the Lord have the capacity to do such a thing as Judas did?
- What conditions allowed such an act to be formulated in his mind and carried out?

Reflect soberly on our scriptural content. What does this difficult scenario teach you regarding our capacity to be fooled and caught up in sin today?

ACTION ITEMS

INVOLVING OTHERS **Discuss the issues that come to mind as you as a group consider Judas' betrayal.**

- Are we as prone as he to sin?
- What must be do and become to guard against such an act?