

Digging Deeper Study
God's Kingdom Come – Christ's Declaration of Independence.
Week of July 5th, 2026

<p>Christ's Declaration of Independence. Matthew 26:1-30</p> <p>Matthew 26:1-30</p> <p>26 When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, ²“As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”</p> <p>³Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in</p>	<p>“In essentials, unity; (1 Corinthians 12:12-13) in non-essentials, liberty; (Romans 14:1) in all things, charity.” (John 13:34)</p> <p>Sermon QUOTE Statement: In Christ there is a Freedom that cannot be experienced elsewhere. Only in Christ can we be free from the grip of Sin and death. Only in Christ can we be free from guilt and shame. And only in Christ can we experience true freedom and the ability to walk in true relationship with God.</p> <p>Opening Question:</p> <p>What is one freedom that you in Christ that you are really grateful for?</p> <p>I. Read Matthew 26:1-5</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are some parallels that you see from the First Passover, and with the work of Jesus on the Cross? (Original Passover main account found in Exodus 12.) 2. Jesus understands what is ahead of Him. Why did He choose to continue on?
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the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, ⁴ and they schemed to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ⁵ “But not during the festival,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.”

⁶ While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, ⁷ a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

⁸ When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. ⁹ “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.”

¹⁰ Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ¹¹ The poor you will

II. Read Matthew 26:6-13

- 3. What are the dangers in judging other people’s worship?**
- 4. What is important when we worship?**
- 5. What are ways we can be people who unit in worship rather than divide in worship?**
- 6. When is it important to correct in worship? What is the key in understanding when this is to be the case?**

always have with you, ^r but you will not always have me. ¹² When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. ¹³ Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

¹⁴ Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

¹⁷ On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do you want us to make

III. Read Matthew 26:14-16

- 1. What are some reflections that we see of Judas heart, as he seeks to betray Jesus? What are things to be aware of and to guard against?**

IV. Read Matthew 26:17-29

- 1. Why do you think Jesus tells everyone that one of them will betray Him?**
- 2. If God ordained Jesus to die for the sins of the people, why would Judas be held responsible for making this happen?**
- 3. Just as the Passover was a remembrance, why is it important for us to remember what Jesus did for us on the cross?**
- 4. What is your thought process with taking communion?**

preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

¹⁸ He replied, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’ ” ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹ And while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, “Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?”

²³ Jesus replied, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who

Take Prayer requests
And close in Prayer

betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, “Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?”

Jesus answered, “You have said so.”

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that

day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."	
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