

VILLAGE

CHURCH

Bible Study Notes

Intro Question:

1. What would you do if you knew you were going to die in 2 days?

Pray: for God's help to remember Jesus.

Read: Matthew 26:1-46

Questions about the passage:

1. How does Jesus interpret the woman's actions in v6-13? Does it mean anything for us?
2. How does Judas' betrayal have echoes in the Scriptures? See Genesis 37:28, Judges 16:5.
3. What is the Passover Festival? What did it celebrate/mean? What is significant about Jesus being crucified at Passover?
4. How does Jesus reinvent the Passover meal? What does he make the New Covenant meal a remembrance of?
5. What do you notice in Matthew's account of Gethsemane? How do we see Jesus' humanity in these passages?

Questions for us:

- What does it look like for us to love Jesus? How does Jesus' humanity grow your love for him?
- How do we celebrate and remember Jesus regularly?
- Does Jesus inspire you to do hard things for his sake? What might that look like this week? Why does Jesus want his disciples to pray for him?

Pray: for us to prayerfully do the will of God this week.

Homework: schedule an hour for prayer this week

Remind: Easter Gatherings - 9am Good Friday & Easter Sunday

Praying to see 10% of the northern suburbs in gospel-centred churches & 250 by 2030 at Village Church who grow, gather, give & go, in love & joy to the glory of God

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For the next bunch of weeks, until Easter, we will be working through the end of Matthew's gospel (starting at chapter 17) as Jesus continues his ministry up to it's final endpoint - his death & resurrection.

This week, Jesus is one step away from his crucifixion as he shares a final meal with his disciples and comes to terms with what is about to happen.

Questions about the passage:

- How does Jesus interpret the woman's actions in v6-13? Does it mean anything for us?

Not everything is about pragmatic value. This woman has done a beautiful thing for Jesus. She has honored him with her heart and her possessions by giving him an anointing (she may not have realised she was doing this) before his burial.

- How does Judas' betrayal have echoes in the Scriptures? See Genesis 37:28, Judges 16:5.

It's fascinating to note that there are other betrayals for silver in the Bible of what you might call little m Messiah's.

- What is the Passover Festival? What did it celebrate/mean? What is significant about Jesus being crucified at Passover?

The Passover festival is the high point of the Israelite year. It remembered and celebrated the Exodus and particularly the final plague of the firstborn when God passed over the children of Israel. The sacrifice of a lamb served as atonement for all the sins of God's people for one year. Jesus is crucified at Passover because he is the lamb of God who offers atonement for all God's people forever.

- How does Jesus reinvent the Passover meal? What does he make the New Covenant meal a remembrance of?

The Passover meal was an opportunity to reflect on God's grace to Israel in the Exodus and the Passover. Jesus turns this meal to point to himself. It's a reminder that in Christ we celebrate our Exodus and the forgiveness of our sins.

- What do you notice in Matthew's account of Gethsemene? How do we see Jesus' humanity in these passages?

Jesus does not relish pain or punishment. He, like all of us, is deeply anxious about what is about to occur. However, strengthened by prayer, he chooses to do God's will.

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Questions for us:

- What does it look like for us to love Jesus? How does Jesus' humanity grow your love for him?

We can't anoint Jesus with perfume. So how can we love Jesus? Consider John 14:15. Reflect on how seeing Jesus genuine pain and suffering for our sake can grow our love for him.

- How do we celebrate and remember Jesus regularly?

Encourage people to be thoughtful. Yes we celebrate/remember Jesus on a Sunday in communion. But how else? What about through song, or when we eat a meal we give thanks to him etc.

- Does Jesus inspire you to do hard things for his sake? What might that look like this week? Why does Jesus want his disciples to pray for him?

.Why doesn't Jesus inspire us more? What's going on there for us? What is Jesus inspiring you to do this week or to change?

Jesus believed that prayer did something. He trusted in the prayers of God's people to strengthen him and themselves. Is there not a link to their lack of prayer than then to their desertion?