

Lent 2014 Bible Studies: Matthew 26

18th March: 'Betraying Jesus'

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

¹⁴Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said, 'What will you give me if I betray him to you?' They paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

The Passover with the Disciples

¹⁷On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' ¹⁸He said, 'Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, "The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples."' ¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

²⁰When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ²¹and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.' ²²And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' ²³He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.' ²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, 'You have said so.'

Opening Prayer

God our Father,
as we open the scriptures,
open our minds that we may know the wonder of your grace,
and open our hearts to receive the mystery of your love,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

"What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver?

- In what ways do we betray Jesus? What makes us betray him?
- In what ways are we greedy?

He began to look for an opportunity... "My time is near."

- How do we feel about time?
- How do we understand *God's* time, compared with *our* time?
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Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

- Where do we see betrayal in our world/society/communities?
- How have we betrayed others?
- How have we been betrayed?

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'Anointing Jesus' – Act of Worship

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you:

and also with you.

Silence is kept, while we call to mind our sins.

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we have betrayed through in our thoughts, words and actions.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we have betrayed our brothers and sisters.

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we have failed to nurture bonds of trust and honesty.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

READING: Matthew 26.20-25

HYMN

**Drop, drop, slow tears,
and bathe those beautiful feet,
which brought from heaven
the news and Prince of Peace.**

**Cease not, wet eyes,
his mercies to entreat;
to cry for vengeance
sin doth never cease.**

**In your deep floods
drown all my faults and fears;
nor let his eye see sin,
but through my tears.**

PRAYERS *are offered, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.*

BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**