

Community Group Question Guide

Matthew 26:1-16 – Conspiracy, Worship, & Treachery

1 When Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said to his disciples,

2 “You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas,

4 and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him.

5 But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

6 Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper,

7 a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table.

8 And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste?

9 For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.”

10 But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me.

11 For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me.

12 In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial.

13 Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

14 Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests

15 and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver.

16 And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

- why is Jesus careful to connect Passover with his crucifixion? How does his statement provide context for the three scenes to follow in verses 3-16?
- where does the scene in verses 3-5 take place? What do you think about this? What do you think about the chief priests, et al, and their plans? What are their motivations?
- in verse 6, the scene changes. Note where. What do you make of this? What do we learn about Jesus overall and about his short-term concerns, soon facing his death?
- who is “clean” and who is “unclean” in this and the previous scene? Why? With whom does Jesus associate? Why?
- why does the woman “anoint” Jesus? Who should have been anointing him and for what? Where else do you see anointing in scripture?
- in a sudden plot twist, Judas offers to betray Jesus. Any idea as to why he decides to do this *now*?
- there are three different responses to Jesus in these verses. What are they? What’s yours?