

Matthew: Jesus, The King of Kings

She Did It For My Burial

Matthew 26:1-16

We're getting close to the end of Matthew

- We covered most of Ch. 28 at Easter
- 75, 66, 5

And we're getting close to the end of Jesus' earthly life and ministry

(Luke and Acts will show us a little more)

But Jesus death won't be the end.

He knows this. He's made it clear.

The disciples though, aren't ready for what's coming

They've forgotten about the resurrection

Let's keep the resurrection in mind

Death isn't the end of the story, it's not the complete picture either

The resurrection gives even more power and meaning to His death.

1 Corinthians 15:54b-57 "...Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where [is] your sting? O Hades, where [is] your victory?" The sting of death [is] sin, and the strength of sin [is] the law. But thanks [be] to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:17, 19-21 - And if Christ is not risen, your faith [is] futile; you are still in your sins! ... If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead, [and] has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man [came] death, by Man also [came] the resurrection of the dead.

[Pray]

26:1-5

Just given assurance of the coming kingdom, His return, Judgment

But now, the cross was at hand

It's good to think about the end, let it drive holiness and excitement and motivate

Without the cross, our end would be different.

Our judgment was taken at the cross

we'd be lost - stuck without an answer for our sin

Just a few days left with them until the crucifixion

Always on his mind (I'd think)

The crucifixion would take place on the biggest feast - Passover**What's Passover? (Exodus 12)**

Literally - God passed over

Israelites, Egypt, Moses, Burning Bush, Ten Plagues -

10th being death of all firstborn

Blood on doorposts, of a lamb, the feast is the lamb sacrificed

Unleavened bread (leaven is a symbol of sin)

Israelites dressed and ready to go

Became the new year, 10th day of the year

(Religious first day, but they still recognize September as civil)

The biggest holiday

Rescued their nation, pointed to a savior

Think July 4th, Christmas and Easter in one

What are the chief priests and big shots doing?

They were busy plotting and trying to set a trap

But Jesus was in charge

He knew everything

It wouldn't be a surprise to him

He didn't want the disciples surprised unprepared either - why He tells them exactly what's going to happen. Delivered up.

Not during the feast

We can trick, but we can't get caught. If we interrupt this, we'll lose power

always fearing the people and their reaction

News released on Friday or when no one is paying attention

Burying the story

Psalm 37:12-13 - The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth. The

Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming.

:6-13

Simon the Leper

We don't know who he was, but they did - potentially related to Mary, Marth and Lazarus. Martha's husband? Me, their father? Had he died?

Leprosy, incurable - yet a provision in the law - cured?
Jesus doesn't just forgive our sins, He washes us clean

Alabaster - the jar

Often held expensive perfume that women would carry with them around their necks (cheaper)
Also used to hold perfumes like spikenard, an expensive burial perfume
A dowry?

Who's the woman?

Matthew, Mark and John this event
Luke records another event in Galilee
John tells us Mary, Lazarus' sister

Matthew says disciples were indignant, John focuses in on Judas being most-of-all

The value? 300 denarii

1 = day minimum wage, 10 months almost a year minimum wage
This was not everyday perfume. 1 pound, not a small jar
This was for a once-in-a-lifetime event - either to use or to sell

Don't let those who bring nothing, trouble you who bring everything

Why do you pray so much? Why do you go to church so much? Why do you talk about Jesus all the time? You're obsessed!

"He who is forgiven much, loves much"

Jesus is the only obsession that won't destroy us

Mary's worship in contrast their indignation

David's dancing, Michal upset (2 Sam 6:20-22)

- **She was brokenhearted over what would happen to Jesus**
- **They feigned outrage over wealth wasted as care for the poor**
Perhaps the poor they cared about were themselves

Be careful not to rationalize our desires, motives, plans as ministry for others

She did it for my burial

Somebody was paying attention, unlike the disciples

Mary chose to use and use for Jesus' burial - a memorial BEFORE His death

She knew what was coming because she paid attention to what Jesus said

Despite the sorrow it brought and what it meant

Jesus' response? She gets a memorial for the rest of history

Nothing we do for the Lord goes unnoticed by Him. Everytime we give our all, thinking we have nothing left, he blesses us beyond belief

And the disciples get to be remembered for being boneheaded

John tells us Judas had been stealing from the money box

When people tell you who they are, believe them

:14-16

One of the twelve

So close, yet so far

Being called a disciple, being around Jesus, handling the money

Doesn't mean anything unless you've had a heart change

Growing up, praying as a kid

Would have said I was a Christian

Praying before coming to the Lord

Praying after meeting Him, giving my life to Him

I was obviously not close to Jesus - but what about those who seem to be?

A collar, a degree, a ministry, a title, a position

Or worse, our own plan...Judas delivered him up out of in his mind "a good desire"

Jesus to be King! But King where? How? When?

How big would that money pot be if Jesus was on the throne and Judas could still be skimming from the top?

We can't expect to get God's will be done, His kingdom come - by our methods, our plans - apart from Him

John 15:4-8 - "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you [are] the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw [them] into the fire, and they are burned. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

**Our life needs to be IN Jesus
And Him in Us
We can't just be around him.**

Judas approached them

His heart was wrong, his plan was wrong, his actions were wrong

He asked them what they'd give him

Prodigal son wanted his reward

Judas just heard about judgment and rewards, and he thought he could usher in the kingdom

Believers who think they can hasten the day...through fleshly means

2 Peter 3:11-13 - Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and **hastening** the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Maybe even good intent. Christian nationalism. Nation founded on...

I'm all for more (1 thess 5:17)



**But we will never usher in the millennium
We will never make a utopia**

Why? We have no power to change people's hearts

Laws, legislation will never fix anything (Nat'l Guard in cities won't change hearts, will go right

back) - and that's why America is doomed without national repentance
 Even if we outlaw abortion, people still want it - from the heart
 Even if we put the 10 commandments in school - people will still revolt against them

Does that mean we shouldn't? No! We should!

Faith and works - especially in the public domain.

**But our goal should always be the heavenly kingdom, not the earthly one
 Even if it has Christ's name on it.**

*Worship leader back in the day...Not voting,
 Not being salt and light, let the world rot and Jesus will come back faster
 Not so fast, bud. We're called to stand up for what's right!*

*Instead, you want to hasten the day? Spread the gospel. When everyone's heard and everyone
 who will believe has believed...then it's go-time.*

*DG - Judas the only Judean among the other disciples, who were all Galileans. Some wonder if
 Judas resented the leadership of the Galilean fishermen among the disciples, and finally had
 enough of it.*

30 pieces of silver (maybe 120 denarii)

The Bible gives no other motive - simply money
 Not small, but affordable for some. price of the cheapest slave...

Judas was so money hungry he took minimum wage for Jesus

The price in a sense, wasn't for Jesus - it was for Judas

What's your price?

It's been said everyone has a number
 I won't do that...how about for \$50k? \$100k? \$1 million?

From that time...sought opportunity

What an awful word to use to betray Jesus "opportunity"

**Nobody asked Mary or Judas to do what they did -
 but they both saw opportunity**

Do we seek an opportunity to honor or betray Jesus?!

*know God wants me at church, but I can't close my business on Sunday
I know I should share with my coworker, but what will they think?
I know God's calling me to _____ but _____*

Even if it's the largest sum in the world, it pales compared to our "riches" in Christ

Not every "opportunity" is from God

Where Judas failed - Jesus passed

- Judas gave up the savior for 30 pieces
- Jesus wouldn't bow down for every kingdom in the world

Aside from Jesus BEING God, the difference?

- Jesus knew who he was in the Father
- We need to know who we are in Jesus

Jesus knew what was most important - His Father's Business

We need to know what's most important - Our Father's business

Jesus knew God's plan for Him - the cross

We need to know God's plan for us

Jesus loved us, and knew it was the only way

We need to know He loves us and is the way

With this in mind and the Holy Help of the Holy Spirit - we too can pass the test

Judas, a traitor in the midst

Double agents, triple agents, moles

Was he sweating? Was he nervous? Was he acting funny?

Looking back, could the disciples see it? Did they just not see it then?

Jesus knew

God always sees our hearts, motives, intents

Mar 12:41-44 41 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many [who were] rich put in much. 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. 43 So He called His disciples to [Himself] and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have

given to the treasury; 44 "for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."

- **Mary** put in her whole livelihood. Life savings. 401k. Future. Start of a life (dowry). She gave what was most valuable to her.
- **Judas** gave up what should have been most valuable to him - His relationship with the Lord, His opportunity to know Him more, and ultimately, his eternity

Real ministry is NEVER about money - It's about Jesus and others

False ministry is always about money - self, own desire, own will

The ministry is never primarily a job - it may pay. It might seem like a career.

It is a calling. The minister ministers whether he gets paid or not.

Like Paul, if it'd burden the people, he'd never take their money

Church is not a business to be run.

Although there may be business-like tasks - like paying bills.

It is a family, brethren of Jesus, to be led and loved.

But like everything else Jesus has been teaching us

It's all about knowing Him and what He's done for us - personally

When it's personal, we offer our most personal possessions in worship

When it's transactional, we want possessions as payment or position

Is our relationship with Jesus, personal or a possession?

Is He IN your life or IS He YOUR life?

Is what we offer Him based on His death and resurrection?

What do we gain? What do we lose?

What breaks us? What makes us mad?

When he's in our house, will we lay it all down? Or try to profit in this life?

Are we willing to lay it all down at His feet

as He laid it all down on the cross to make us his prize?

Our offering has a smell - is it sweet or sour?

Jesus wants your altar - your heart.

And when He has it, our offering takes on a whole different fragrance

It'll be one of broken beauty, preparing for death and resurrection

Or One of indignant attitude, cloaking a dead spirit