

## *A note from Kathy*

*Up to this point we have seen Jesus and his disciples walking and talking together day after day but, in Matthew 26 we see events moving at a much more rapid pace. Events that were previously spoken of as “future events” are now in full swing. Let’s ask the Lord to help us see any details we may have previously missed and to open our hearts to hear from Him.*

## *Observation*

1. Jesus spent much of his time teaching and instructing his disciples, but now his time is drawing to a close. What event did he warn them was to happen very soon?
2. The religious leaders gathered at the palace of the high priest, Caiaphas. What was the purpose of this meeting?
3. Where was Jesus at this time?
4. Matthew simply mentioned a woman with an alabaster jar among the people close to Jesus that day. John 12:2-3 tell us her name. Who was this woman? What did she do with this beautiful jar and its contents?
5. What was the response of those close to Jesus? How did they view the actions of this woman? Read John 12:4-6; who led in the disapproval of this event? What was the motive behind his words?
6. What truth did Jesus remind his disciples of in verses 10-13?
7. Verses 14-16 shine a light on one of the disciples; which one and what do you learn about this man?
8. What is the celebration mentioned in verse 17? Look up Exodus 12:17-20 and write down any details you discover about this celebration.
9. Jesus gave his disciples an assignment in verses 18-19; read Mark 14:13-16 and Luke 22:10-12 for more details. Jot down the facts you discover.
10. Note the time of day mentioned in verse 20. Even at this time of rest, what was Jesus doing?

11. Jesus very clearly told his disciples what was about to take place. What was the disciples' response?
12. As Jesus ate this last meal with them, he shared with them the fact that he was the fulfillment once for all of the Passover. They would not have a full understanding until much later as they remembered his words. What were the symbols of this new covenant?
13. At this point, the meal was over and it was late as he lead them out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus told them some things that would happen that were very difficult for them to hear. What did he tell them he was aware of? What was Peter's response?
14. They walked on to a place called Gethsemane. It was late and the disciples were tired. Who were the three disciples Jesus shared his sorrow with? Who did he invite to join him as he prayed for strength and waited?
15. Write out the three prayers Jesus prayed as he waited in the garden that night. Notice he did not try to hide his human emotions from God, but what was of greatest importance to him?
16. Time was up, the betrayer had arrived. Who was it and who came with him?
17. How did they determine the man they were there to arrest?
18. Jesus called Judas "friend" (Greek *hetairos*). It is simply a word used for one who is an acquaintance. Not like the word (Greek *philos*) friend that denotes closeness and affection. Judas was given permission to do what he came to do. What happened next? Read John 18:10 to see who stepped in to defend Jesus.
19. Once again in verses 53-54, Jesus reminded them of his purpose. What was his purpose as he stated it here?
20. Did the events play out just as Jesus told them they would? What did the disciples do?
21. Where was Jesus taken?
22. Where was Peter as Jesus stood before the Sanhedrin?  
This was the most powerful religious and political body of the Jewish people. They handled most of the disputes among the Israelites, but they could not render a death sentence. They would still need to take their evidence to the Roman rulers.

23. How did Jesus fulfill Isaiah 53:7?
24. When asked directly if he was Christ, the long awaited Son of God, how did Jesus answer?
25. Verses 69-75 tell a very sad and familiar story. Briefly write out the event.

## *Application*

1. The hatred and jealousy against Jesus at that time was amazing. There was no reason for it. All Jesus had done in his short time of ministry was preach, teach and heal. There will be times when we too have done nothing to deserve hatred and jealousy, but it will come our way just the same. When it does, how are we as Believers to handle it?
2. In this chapter we saw Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha, anoint Jesus with costly oil. Her deed was totally misunderstood by many who were there that day. She was accused of wasting something precious. Judas said it could have been sold to help meet the needs of the poor. These are noble words, but what was the truth about his heart? How did Jesus view this deed?  
Have you ever done something as a gift for God, and been totally misunderstood and perhaps even condemned by those around you?  
I have a friend who while going through a valley of her own, chose to take her daughters and go to Africa and serve others for a period of time. Some of her family and her closest supporters did not think she should do this, and they criticized her for it. She went anyway. Obedience to God is really all that matters.
3. Why do you suppose Judas wanted to betray Jesus? What happened or didn't happen that got him to this point? Have you ever made a terrible decision because you had an expectation and things were not happening as you thought they should?
4. Betrayal is a terrible thing. Whether it is a large betrayal that costs us dearly, or a small betrayal that misled or simply violated our trust, it hurts. When this happens what are we to do? As believers we have an example.
5. The Feast of Unleavened Bread was 7 days of cleansing one's house of all leaven. Leaven in the Bible represents sin. Do you have a designated time or activity that reminds you to cleanse your heart in remembrance of all the Lord has done for you?

6. If someone asked you, "What has God done for you?" what would your answer be? I am not necessarily referring to the fact that the sun rose in the east again this morning or the fact that there is air to breathe and the earth is still revolving in orbit as it should. If you were the last person that would have a chance to speak to someone at the end of their life, what valuable treasure of the goodness of God would you share that just might cause them to place their trust in him? Find someone to share this with today.
7. Jesus in his humanity did not want to go to the cross. He prayed in the garden three times that if it could be possible by some other way to show him, and yet quickly each time remained steadfast that it was to be the Father's will not his that would reign. Have you ever faced a difficult situation where everything in you pulled in the opposite direction, but in spite of it you declared "Thy will be done"?
8. The scriptures say that after Jesus' arrest, Peter, the man who said he would die with Jesus, was following at a distance. Fear of man had overpowered this great man of God. Fear can be debilitating; it can weaken us and stop us in our tracks. It will keep us there if we allow it. How do you handle your times of fear? What do you use in order to be victorious over fear?
9. So often, just like Peter, we believe we know our own heart. We trust ourselves to remain faithful even in the face of opposition. Jesus knew what Peter would do long before the events unfolded. Peter did exactly what Jesus had predicted; he denied him three times. Have you ever thought you'd take a stand if it came to that point, and then when faced with the situation, you denied by your words or actions that you knew Jesus? Or perhaps it was by your silence that you denied him? How did you handle it after this event?
10. Character is the particular quality and the very nature of a person that distinguishes them from others. What have you learned about the character of God by studying this chapter?
11. Why not share what you have learned with someone else this week? I am asking God to show you the opportunity very clearly and to give you the strength to act on it. It does not need to be this entire lesson, but some treasure you have gotten from your time in his word.