

- Last week we paid special attention to the way Christ responded when the Jewish religious leaders figure out Christ was teaching against them and were sending insincere people acting sincere to ask Jesus what they think are hard questions. We looked at the way Christ answered those questions and how He said we are to conduct ourselves as we wait for His return. Christ had come with His apostles to observe the Passover feast in Jerusalem and there were Jews from all over the world there to do the same thing.
- This week we are going to look at the events leading up to the death of Christ. We will look at what how the apostles still didn't quite get the urgency of the situation, and how Christ responded with predictions, the institution of communion. We will also look at the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, and how He conducted Himself in the two "trials" he faced.
- The Jewish religious leaders were seeking a way to put Jesus to death but were afraid of His popularity. Satan caused Judas to realize that he could profit by conspiring with them and so they agreed to pay Judas off with thirty pieces of silver if he would betray Christ. (Matthew 26:1-5 14-19 Mark 14:1-2 10-11 Luke 22:12-6)
- Remember that Judas had been one of the twelve sent out with power to perform miracles and teach. We read specifically in the passage above that Satan entered Judas and caused him to be tempted. Still, even though he was tempted by Satan, he made the choice to betray Jesus. Satan does tempt us, but God will always give us the ability to make a choice not to sin when we are tempted. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- Christ's apostles ask Him where they will have their dinner to prepare for the Passover. He tells His apostles to go into the city, find a person carrying a jar of water, follow him, and tell him that they need a room from him for dinner before Passover. (Matthew 26:17-19 Mark 14:12-16 Luke 22:7-13)
- At dinner, Christ tells His apostles that one of them will betray Him. The disciples wonder who it could be and Judas asks and Christ says it is him. (Matthew 26:20-25 Mark 14:17-21 Luke 22:21-23)
- After dinner is over, Christ institutes what we now know as the Lord's Supper. Christ tells his disciples to take bread and eat it as a symbol of His body, and then He gives something in a cup to his disciples which the writers of the Gospel account say Jesus call the "fruit of the vine" which He says was symbolic of his blood. He tells them to observe this ritual in His memory. We use grape juice (it was most likely some form of wine since they didn't really have processed grape juice back then). (Matthew 26:26-29 Mark 14:22-25 Luke 22:19-20)
- The apostles were arguing about who would be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven and Christ explains that His example of service shows how to be great in the Kingdom. (Luke 22:24-30)
- After the final dinner (called the "Last Supper") Christ and the apostles sing a hymn and then go out into a place called the Mount of Olives. There Christ says that very night the

apostles would all scatter and quotes [Zechariah 13:7](#) which says: “strike the shepherd and the sheep will scatter.” Peter says that he won’t leave Christ and Christ predicts that Peter will deny he knows Him three times and then a rooster will crow. ([Matthew 26:30-35](#), [Mark 14:32-42](#), [Luke 22:39-46](#))

- Jesus takes Peter, James, and John to a Garden called Gethsemane. Three times He goes to pray earnestly that God will not let Him suffer and die but that He wants God’s will to be done. Each time Christ comes back and find the three sleeping because they just couldn’t stay awake. The first time He is angry with them and asks them if they couldn’t stay awake just one hour with Him and that their spirit is willing but their flesh is weak. The second time Christ doesn’t say anything to them. The third time Christ tells them to sleep and rest later because they must be awake when He is be betrayed. One of the times, we are not sure which one, Luke records that Christ sweats blood and is comforted by an angel. ([Matthew 26:36-40](#) [Mark 14:32-42](#) [Luke 22:39-46](#))
- We sing a song called “I Stand Amazed” which contains the line “he had no tears for His own grief but sweat drops of blood for mine.”
- Remember that Christ was fully human at the same time He was fully divine. He clearly did not want to suffer and die any more than any of us would. It is worth noting that His prayer was that God’s will be done and He knew that all this would have to happen because He was being selected as the sacrifice for all our sins – just like people were selecting their lambs to sacrifice for Passover. In this way, He is doing exactly what John the Baptist said he would do when he said, “behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.” ([John 1:29](#))
- An armed mob comes in the middle of night to Gethsemane and Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss so they go to seize Him. Peter swings his sword at the head of a person named Malchus (only the Gospel account of John records his actual name) and ends up cutting off his ear. Christ heals his ear and mentions that he could call twelve legions of angels (hence our song, “Ten Thousand Angels”) to protect him if He wanted. He also notes that He was often in public places during the day where they could have arrested Him but that this was all happening at night to fulfill the prophecies, including the fact that the apostles will flee, which they do. ([Matthew 26:47-56](#), [Mark 14:43-52](#), [Luke 22:47-53](#))
- The Jews could not sentence someone to death because they were under Roman occupation. The Jews still had judicial process, but that process would result in a sentencing guideline or recommendation for the Roman trial process. Christ’s arrest was only the first step in the Jewish trial process. In the second step of the process, Christ is brought before Caiaphas the high priest of the Jews. The Jewish leaders of the day had all assembled there and readied many people to bring false witness. The best they could come up with was one person who said he heard Jesus say that He could destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days. That much was true, but Jesus was clearly talking about Himself. ([John 2:18-22](#)) Caiaphas asks Jesus if this is true, and Jesus doesn’t respond. Caiaphas then asks Jesus if He is the Son of God. Jesus says that He is, Caiaphas says that this is proof of blasphemy. Jesus is mocked, cursed, and spit upon. ([Matthew 26:57-68](#), [Luke 22:63-65](#))

- The apostle Peter may be the only apostle to follow Christ to that first trial, but he is keeping his distance. He is in a courtyard warming himself by the fire. Three times he is recognized as being one of the apostles. Each time he insists that he is not that person and gets firmer each time. Then he hears the rooster crow, he remembers Christ's prophesy that this very thing would happen, and he weeps bitterly. (Matthew 26:69-75, Mark 14:16-22)
- After the second stage in the Jewish trial process (by now it is morning of the Passover, a day when they should not really be doing any work), the religious leaders meet in a formal political council called the Sanhedrin. Luke is the only Gospel account that records this event in detail, and he explains that Jesus does not directly admit to being the Son of God, but when asked, responds that if He tells them, they won't believe it anyway, but they will come to realize it's true. (Matthew 27:1-2 Mark 15:1 Luke 22:66 – 23:1)
- The crowd takes that to be blasphemous, so take him first to Pilate. Pilate questions Jesus and says he finds no guilt in him. (Matthew 27:11-14 Mark 15:2-5 Luke 23:2-5)
- Matthew and Mark's Gospel account both skip an intermediate step that we read about in Luke. In the process of questioning him, Pilate finds out that Jesus is Galilean, so Pilate says he is under the jurisdiction of the King Rome had installed for the Jewish people named Herod (the same person who ordered all the males under two years old in Bethlehem slain in the hopes of killing Jesus as an infant... the same guy who beheaded John the Baptist). Herod is happy to see Jesus especially in this position so the false accusations, mockings, and mistreatment continued, then Herod dresses him up like a King and sends Jesus back to Pilate. Luke records that because of this incident, Herod and Pilate form a friendship where they had previously not had a good relationship. (Luke 23:6-12)
- In the final trial in front of Pilate, Pilate three times says that Christ has done nothing wrong. The assembled crowd still shouts for his death. Pilate notes that Passover tradition was to release a criminal, and the crowd shouts for the release of a hardened criminal named Barrabas instead. Finally, in a very symbolic gesture, Pilate (who could have stopped the whole thing but wanted to appear popular) washed his hands off and said the blood of Jesus would not be upon him. Then he sentenced Christ to death. (Matthew 27:15-30 Mark 15:6-19 Luke 23:13-25)
- Most of the time when Jesus is questioned, he just doesn't respond at all. Rather than mount a vigorous defense against all the false accusations and misperceptions (which probably would have gotten him set free), he chooses not to answer. This was fulfilling a specific prophesy made by the Prophet Isaiah, that, like the Passover lambs that don't make a sound even when they are about to be killed, Christ would not open his mouth. (Isaiah 53:7)

Questions:

1. Who was seeking an opportunity to kill Jesus and what was holding them back?
2. Who finally helped them by offering to betray Jesus and for what?

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Selecting the Lamb and Begging for Wrath

Matthew 26:47-27:30 Mark 14:43-15:19 Luke 22:47-23

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3. Did Judas have a choice in what he did? Do we when we face temptation?
4. When Jesus' apostles ask Him how they will have their dinner before Passover what does He tell them?
5. When does Christ predict Judas will be the one who betrays Him?
6. What are the elements of the Lord's supper? What do they symbolize? Why do we do it?
7. How does Christ say His example shows one can be truly great in the Kingdom of Heaven?
8. What do Christ and His apostles do before they leave the Last Supper?
9. Who does Christ quote to indicate his apostles will scatter?
10. What is Christ's specific prediction regarding Peter's denial of Him?
11. When Christ is praying in Gethsemane who does He take with Him?
12. What is Christ's prayer in Gethsemane?
13. What happens when Christ is praying in Gethsemane?
14. How often does Christ find his apostles sleeping and how does He respond?
15. Why is Christ like the Passover Lamb?
16. What happens when the mob comes to arrest Jesus?
17. Describe the Jewish legal system.
18. Did Christ say He would rebuild the temple in three days? What was He talking about?
19. What happened at the trial Caiaphas held for Christ?
20. How many times does Peter deny Christ and what happens then?
21. Who writes the only Gospel account that records Christ's trial in front of the Sanhedrin?
22. What happens at Jesus first trial with Pilate?
23. Why does Pilate send Jesus to Herod?
24. What happens when Jesus is brought to Herod?
25. Who is Barrabas and why is he released instead of Jesus?
26. Why does Pilate give in to the crowd?
27. Why does Pilate wash his hands?
28. What Old Testament prophet foretold that Jesus would be silent at his trials?

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