

Matthew – Part 12

Jesus' last days before His crucifixion

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing an exciting series of studies on The Gospel of Matthew. Our topic today: Jesus' last days before His crucifixion.

Scripture Theme Song: Praise Him the Heights (Ps. 148:1-4)

- 1) The Anointing at Bethany
 - a) The setting – Matthew 26:1-5
 - b) The anointing – Matthew 26:6-13 (Luke 7:37)
 - c) What was the significance of this act of love and devotion in Bethany?
 - d) What do we learn about Jesus from His response to this anointing?
 - e) What are some acts of devotion we can offer to Jesus in response to His love and grace?
- 2) The Lord's Supper
 - a) Matthew 26:17-25, 26-30
 - b) Why does Jesus choose to institute this new service at the time of the Passover?
 - c) A Christian young adult once said, "I don't feel worthy to participate in this sacred service." How would you respond? (1 Cor. 11:27-30)
 - d) What are your thoughts about celebrating this service with Jesus "in My Father's kingdom"?
- 3) Gethsemane
 - a) Matthew 26:36-46
 - b) Why was the Gethsemane experience so difficult for Jesus?
 - c) "It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp the scene, especially the closing ones." DA 83 What lessons might we learn as we contemplate Christ's sufferings in Gethsemane?
- 4) The Betrayal of Jesus by Judas
 - a) Matthew 26:14-16
 - b) Matthew 26:47-50 Why would Judas do such a terrible thing? Are there any clues in the Gospel story that Judas was heading down a dangerous path?
 - i) Luke 9:57-58
 - ii) John 12:3-6
 - c) Luke 22:3 How was Satan able to control Judas?
 - d) Matthew 27:1-5 – Judas' tragic end
 - e) What lessons can we learn from the sad story of Judas?
- 5) Peter's Denial
 - a) Matthew 26:31-35 – what concerns do you have about Peter's response to the warning of Jesus?
 - b) Matthew 26:51-56 (John 18:10-11) – What concerns do you have about Peter's response when Jesus is arrested?
 - c) Matthew 26:57-68 – the setting for the denial
 - d) Matthew 26:69-75 (see Luke 22:61)
 - e) It's easy to judge Peter, but what lessons can we learn from his failure for our lives today?