

The Path to the Cross **Matthew 26:17-75**

I. Last Passover – 26:17-30

1. Preparing for the Passover - 17-19
Jesus sent disciples to prepare
At a specific house
2. They sat down to eat – 20
3. Jesus speaks of betrayal – 21-25
One of you will betray me – 21-22
In sorrow they ask “Is it I?”
He gives a clue - 23
One who dips his hand in the dish with me
Pronounces a woe upon betrayer - 24
Jesus answers Judas -25
4. Fulfillment of Passover – 26-30
Last Passover because it is fulfilled
It is all about the Lamb of God
The bread is His body offered for us – 26
The cup is His blood shed for our sin – 27-28
This is the promised New Covenant
Complete provision for all sin
Never again until in the Kingdom – 29
Passover is finished in sacrifice of Christ
They sang a hymn of praise to God – 30
Lord’s Supper is given as opportunity for praise

II. Renew your Commitment – 31-35

1. Your faith will be challenged tonight – 31
There will be a temptation to deny Jesus
Scripture predicted this – Zechariah 13:7
Jesus said “all of you” desertion & denial
2. Jesus will not deny them – 32
He will meet them again after resurrection
3. Peter promises not to deny Jesus – 33-35
Maybe the others will but not me
Jesus said not just once but 3 times tonight
Peter says never, so do the others

III. Agony in the Garden – 26:36-46

1. Facing the Will of God – 36
As a man He contemplates God’s will
He understands all that is entailed – 37-38
Soul was sorrowful, very heavy – at point of death
He needs time with God in prayer
He seeks the support of friends
3 disciples – “watch with me”
2. Alone in prayer – 39-41
He prays to the Father with a submissive spirit
He finds the disciples sound asleep
No support from them – He must do it alone
3. He prays a second time – 42-43
In submission to God’s will

Again the disciples are asleep

4. He prays a third time – 44
In similar words He submits to God’s will
5. It is time to face the betrayer – 45-46
No need to pray any longer – you can sleep
But it is time to wake up and face betrayal

IV. Betrayal & Arrest – 47-56

1. Judas comes with arresting band – 47
They are armed and great in number
They come with authority of Jewish Council
2. Judas with kiss of betrayal – 48-50
The kiss is the identifying prearranged sign
He kissed Him calling Him Master
Jesus called Him friend – “Why do you come?”
3. Peter defends Jesus with a sword - 51
John 18:10-11 identifies him as the one
He cuts off the ear of the High Priest’s servant
4. Jesus rebukes him – 52-54
This is not the time to fight - 52
If you choose the sword you will die with it
Jesus could call for an army of angels – 53
But how then would Scripture be fulfilled – 54
His death is predicted in Scripture
5. Jesus challenges arresting band – 55-56
What charges do you bring against me?
I taught openly in the Temple
Even the way it is done fulfills Scripture
6. All His disciples forsook Him & fled - 56

V. Jewish Trial – 57-68

1. Jesus before the Sanhedrin – 57
Jewish Council – High Priest, scribes & Elder
They are determined to kill Him – need charges
2. Peter follows at a distance – 58
He goes to the High Priest’s palace
Maintained a distance – not involved
Sat with the servants – see what would happen
3. Council looks for false witnesses – 59-60
They were not successful in their search
Finally found 2 who agreed on His claim – 61
“able to destroy Temple of God- build it in 3 days”
4. Jesus is questioned about this – 62-63
What is your response to this accusation?
What did He really say (John 2:19-21)
Jesus did not speak in defense – 63
5. High Priest puts Jesus under oath – 63
“Are you the Christ (Messiah) the Son of God?”
6. Jesus responds to this question – 64
Agrees with this charge – for it is true
Adds: “You will see the Son of Man sitting at the
right hand of Power and coming in the clouds of
heaven”

7. He is charged with blasphemy – 65-66
Council agree with charge – guilty of death
8. They abuse Him & spit on Him – 67-68
They abuse and ridicule Jesus
Prophecy – Who hit you?

VI. Peter's Denial – 69-75

1. Peter's first denial – 69-70
Servant girl identifies Peter as a disciple
Peter denied openly that this was not true
2. Peter's second denial – 71-72
Peter had moved to another location
But again he is recognized as "with Jesus"
He denied saying he "did not know the man"
3. Peter's third denial – 73-74
Later he is identified by his Galilean accent
Peter took an oath that he did not know Jesus
4. Peter's brokenness – 75
He heard the rooster crow
He remembered what Jesus had said
He went out weeping bitterly