

# Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 45

## Lesson 45– Preparations for His Death

### Background:

We are now into the last few days of Christ’s life and ministry on earth. Jesus understands He is about to be betrayed and crucified. The verbal sparring with the Jewish religious leaders is reaching its climax and Jesus focuses on preparing His disciples and Himself for what is about to transpire.

Nevertheless, He still has His faithful few who love Him and continue to follow Him – even when they don’t quite understand what is coming.

**Read:** [Matthew 26:1-13](#); [Luke 22:3-16](#); [Mark 14:22-26](#)

### Read the Following Quote

“He knew what was coming. He walked up and into Jerusalem – just like that. A couple of nights before, he sat on a hill and looked and looked at that city. I expect he prayed too. He saw the whole thing coming, and he walked right into it – just like that.” [Lois A Cheney](#)

### Questions:

Do you think that Jesus was foolish or brave? Do you think He really understood what was about to happen?

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### Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [Matthew 26:1-5](#)

### The Plot Against Jesus

1. Immediately after talking about His Second Coming, Jesus begins to talk about His immediate future. Does that surprise you? Why would He switch so suddenly? How would you feel if you were one of the disciples?

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2. A group of leaders were meeting to plan Jesus’s arrest. Who were they? Where were they? Why do you think they met secretly? Why would they think that the best solution was to kill Jesus? Why do you think that so many people, especially those in leadership, want to persecute Christians even today?

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## Jesus Anointed at Bethany **Matthew 26:6-10**

3. Where was Jesus and what happened to Him there? What did the disciples think about what happened? What does it tell you about the disciples priorities at that time?

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4. What is Jesus' response? What is the "beautiful thing" she has done? Why is this story still told today? What of value can you bring Jesus today? Compare [Romans 12:1-2](#)

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## Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus and the Last Supper [Luke 22:3-16](#)

5. What did Judas do after the anointing in Bethany? Why did he do this? What did the Jewish leaders agree to do and what was the part Judas agreed to play? Read [John 13:18](#) and [Psalm 41:9](#). Was Jesus surprised by the actions of Judas? Was it a mistake to allow Judas to be one of the disciples? Is it possible to be like Judas today? How?

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6. What was significant about the Day of Unleavened Bread? What did Jesus instruct Peter and John to do? Compare [Exodus 12:1-14](#). Why was it important for Jesus and the disciples to celebrate this feast?

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7. What were the very specific instructions Jesus gave to Peter and John? Did they find things the way Jesus had told them? Do you think this was a prophecy or had Jesus spoken to someone ahead of time?

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8. Why did Jesus want to share the Passover with the disciples? If you have a friend who is leaving do you share a last meal with them? What kinds of emotions might you have? (verses 14-16)

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## The Last Supper [Mark 14:22-26](#)

9. Describe what Jesus did and said in verses 22-24. Why do you think that Jesus chose to connect this, the Last Supper, with the Jewish Passover? Why do you think that Jesus chose bread and wine as symbols for His body and blood? Can we use other symbols?

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10. Should the Lord's Supper be a joyful celebration or a sad, reflective experience. What emotions do you experience when you celebrate the Lord's Supper with other Christians? How often should Christians meet to break bread?

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11. Read [I Corinthians 11:23-26](#). What did Paul say was the reason for the institution of the New Covenant?

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12. Why does the passage give us the detail that they "sang a hymn and "went out to the Mount of Olives"?

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### Suggested Prayer:

*"Father in Heaven, we are both sobered and encouraged as we read these passages about the last few hours of Jesus' life. Thank you for the Lord's Supper which helps us to remember Jesus and all He did for us. Motivate us to be present as often as we can when Christians are celebrating the Lord's Supper together. Help us to be bold in sharing our faith and the good news about Jesus so that others will become followers of Jesus and celebrate this special time with us. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.*

### For Further Reading:

[Was Judas Iscariot Forgiven/Saved?](#)

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