

# The Gospel of Matthew

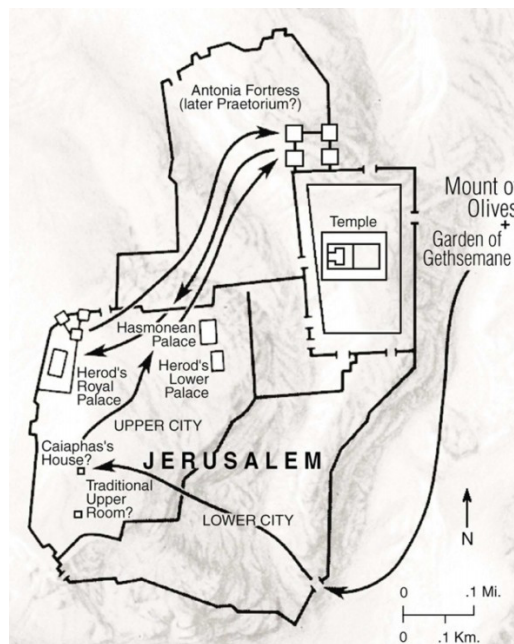
## Booklet 28 – Four Lessons

**Lesson 77 - Matthew 26:1-16**

**Lesson 78 - Matthew 26:17-35**

**Lesson 79 - Matthew 26:36-56**

**Lesson 80 - Matthew 26:57-75**



## International ESL/Bible Lessons Intermediate to Advanced Level

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Much of the material in these lessons come from *The Gospel of Matthew, Vol. I*, by William Barclay. Daily Study Bible Series. Other content comes from Bible Commentaries, Dictionaries and on-line sources. All pictures are from Google Images.

# The Gospel Of Matthew

## Lesson 77 - Matthew 26: 1-16 The Plot Against Jesus

**26** When Jesus had finished saying all these things, / he said to his disciples, / <sup>2</sup> “As you know, / the Passover is two days away—/ and the Son of Man / will be handed over to be crucified.”

<sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests / and the elders of the people / assembled in the palace of the high priest, / whose name was Caiaphas, / <sup>4</sup> and they schemed to arrest Jesus secretly / and kill him. / <sup>5</sup> “But not during the festival,” / they said, / “or there may be a riot among the people.”

### Jesus Anointed at Bethany

<sup>6</sup> While Jesus was in Bethany / in the home of Simon the Leper, / <sup>7</sup> a woman came to him / with an alabaster jar / of very expensive perfume, / which she poured on his head / as he was reclining at the table.

<sup>8</sup> When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. / “Why this waste?” / they asked. / <sup>9</sup> “This perfume could have been sold at a high price / and the money given to the poor.”



<sup>10</sup> Aware of this, / Jesus said to them, / “Why are you bothering this woman? / She has done a beautiful thing to me. / <sup>11</sup> The poor you will always have with you, / but you will not always have me. / <sup>12</sup> When she poured this perfume on my body, / she did it to prepare me for burial. / <sup>13</sup> Truly I tell you, / wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, / what she has done / will also be told, / in memory of her.”

### **Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus**

<sup>14</sup> Then one of the Twelve— / the one called Judas Iscariot— / went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and asked, / “What are you willing to give me / if I deliver him over to you?” / So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. / <sup>16</sup> From then on / Judas watched for an opportunity / to hand him over.

### ***Vocabulary***

1. Crucified: Put someone to death by nailing him or her on a cross.  
To criticize someone severely and unrelenting.
2. To scheme: A large scale systematic plan for attaining some particular object or idea. *A clever marketing scheme. A scheme to rob a bank.*
3. Riot: A violent disturbance by a large crowd. A large display of something, like *a riot of color in April.*



4. To anoint: Rub with oil, *to anoint with oil for a king, or to prepare for burial.*
5. Alabaster: A fine-grained, translucent form of gypsum, typically white, often carved into ornaments.
6. Indignant: Feeling or showing anger or annoyance at what is perceived as unfair treatment: *he was indignant at being the object of suspicion.*
7. Burial: Act of interring a dead body.

Adjective	Noun	Verb	Adverb
	Crucifixion, Crucifix	To crucify	
	Scheme	To scheme	
	Riot	To riot	

### **Questions**

1. Jesus many times told his disciples that he would be arrested and die. Why do you think they didn't really think that would happen?
2. Why was the Passover Feast so important to the Jews?
3. Why do you think the Romans sold and controlled the office of High Priest of all the Jews?
4. Why would Judas betray Jesus?
5. Why was Caiaphas willing to work with Judas?

6. What do you think anointing someone's head with oil means?
7. How much was Jesus sold for?

### **Notes**

1. With Chapter 26, Jesus begins the last days of his life on earth. Again, he warns his disciples about what was to come. Yet, Jesus continued to teach and to work with others.
2. 'The Jewish people celebrate Passover / as a commemoration / of their liberation by God / from slavery in Egypt / and their freedom as a nation / under the leadership of Moses. / It commemorates the story of the Exodus / as described in the Hebrew Bible / especially in the Book of Exodus, / in which the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. / According to standard biblical chronology, / this event would have taken at about 1300 BCE.' (Wikipedia)
3. At the same time, the high priest, Joseph Caiaphas was scheming to arrest Jesus secretly. The office of High Priest was, in the past, hereditary and they were descendants of Aaron, the brother of Moses. When the Romans conquered Palestine, they sold the office to suit their own needs. From 37B.C. to A.D. 67, there were no fewer than 28 high priests.
4. Caiaphas was High Priest from A.D. 18 to A.D. 36. That is unbelievable! Caiaphas knew how to keep the Romans happy, for

he understood that the Romans could not stand for civil disorder or rioting. Caiaphas would lose his position if there were a revolution or an uprising.

5. The holiday week was Passover, and the streets of Jerusalem were packed with people. Caiaphas wanted to take Jesus secretly after the Passover Feast and when the city was quiet. Judas gave him his solution when he offered to hand Jesus over to him.
6. Matthew and John also tell this story of the Anointing of Jesus with the costly perfume. The Gospel of John names the woman as Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha. It was indeed a lovely and loving thing for Mary to do. The price of the perfume was equal to a year's wages. Anointing was done for a king, a priest, or a special office.

7. **Three reasons** Judas might have betrayed Jesus:

8.\* Greed. The Gospel of John tells us that Judas was a thief, and he objected to the perfume not being sold was that he wanted to take the money himself. The sum of money Judas received was 30 arguria or a shekel. It was worth only pennies.

9.\* Judas was disillusioned. He probably expected Jesus as Messiah to



fight the Romans and free his country. He expected a military savior, not a spiritual savior.

10. Judas may never have thought Jesus would die. He saw him as a divine leader, and may have felt Jesus was going too slowly in taking his “kingdom.” Perhaps he was trying to force Jesus to act against the Romans.
11. “However we look at it, the tragedy of Judas is that he refused to accept Jesus as he was and tried to make him what he wanted him to be. It is not Jesus who can be changed by us, but we who must be changed by Jesus. We can never use him for our purposes.



# The Gospel Of Matthew

## Lesson 78 - Matthew 26: 17-35 The Last Supper

<sup>17</sup> On the first day / of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, / the disciples came to Jesus / and asked, / “Where do you want us to make preparations / for you to eat the Passover?”

<sup>18</sup> He replied, / “Go into the city to a certain man / and tell him, / ‘The Teacher says: / My appointed time is near. / I am going to celebrate the Passover / with my disciples / at your house.’” / <sup>19</sup> So / the disciples did as Jesus had directed them / and prepared the Passover.

<sup>20</sup> When evening came, / Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. / <sup>21</sup> And while they were eating, / he said, / “Truly I tell you, / one of you will betray me.”

<sup>22</sup> They were very sad / and began to say to him / one after the other, / “Surely / you don’t mean me, / Lord?”



<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, / “The one / who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me / will betray me. / <sup>24</sup> The Son of Man will go / just as it is written about him. / But / woe to that man / who betrays the Son of Man! / It would be better for him / if he had not been born.”

<sup>25</sup> Then Judas, / the one who would betray him, / said, / “Surely you don’t mean me, / Rabbi?”

Jesus answered, / “You have said so.”

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, / Jesus took bread, / and when he had given thanks, / he broke it / and gave it to his disciples, / saying, / “Take and eat; / this is my body.”

<sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, / and when he had given thanks, / he gave it to them, / saying, / “Drink from it, / all of you. / <sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the covenant, / which is poured out / for many for the forgiveness of sins. / <sup>29</sup> I tell you, / I will not drink / from this fruit of the vine / from now on / until that day / when I drink it new / with you / in my Father’s kingdom.”

<sup>30</sup> When they had sung a hymn, / they went out to the Mount of Olives.

### **Jesus Predicts Peter’s Denial**

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus told them, / “This very night / you will all fall away / on account of me, / for it is written:

“I will strike the shepherd,  
and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’

<sup>32</sup> But after I have risen, / I will go ahead of you / into Galilee.”

<sup>33</sup> Peter replied, / “Even if all fall away on account of you, / I never will.”

<sup>34</sup> “Truly I tell you,” / Jesus answered, / “this very night, / before the rooster crows, / you will disown me three times.”

<sup>35</sup> But Peter declared, / “Even if I have to die with you, / I will never disown you.” / And all the other disciples said the same.

### **Vocabulary**

1. Preparations: Getting ready for or making something ready for use.
2. Unleavened: Bread without yeast.
3. To recline: Lean or lie back in a relaxed position.
4. To strike: To hit. *The striking of a clock.*
5. Flock: A number of domestic animals kept together.
6. To scatter: To throw in random directions.
7. Rooster: Male domestic fowl. A cock.
8. To disown: Refuse to acknowledge or have any connection with.



### **Questions**

1. Can you tell the story of the Hebrew or Jewish people leaving Egypt?
2. Why do you think this meal was important to Jesus, and to all Christians today?

3. Where did Jesus say he would meet the disciples after his death and resurrection?
4. Peter is an interesting disciple. Why do you think he said that he would never deny Jesus?

### **Notes**

1. Back in the days of Jesus, the Jews, the Persians, the Greeks and the Romans did not sit on upright chairs around the dining table with their legs underneath the table to dine as is portrayed by Leonardo Da Vinci's famous painting, *"The Last Supper"*. Much like the Japanese people would sit on the floor around a low table to dine or they would recline on couches or cushions around a low table to dine. They would usually recline on one side while eating with one hand. There were no forks, no spoons and no knives on the table and certainly there was no table napkin.
2. As one reclined to eat his meal, he first washed his hands in a bowl of water (usually carried by a servant). He might or might not dry his hands with a towel provided. And after the meal, he obviously washed his hands again.
3. The whole week was called the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and the Passover Feast was on the first day. Remember that the day for the Jews began at 6:00 o'clock in the evening. On the Thursday morning, every particle of yeast was searched for and

destroyed. This was a ceremonial search. This was to commemorate the Exodus as the Jews or Hebrews fled slavery in Egypt, sometime about 1279-1213 BCE.

4. The Passover Lamb also has great meaning. From the lamb, the Hebrews took the blood and smeared it on the door lintel and side posts, and the Angel of Death passed by the homes of the Jews. They were saved, while the firstborn of the Egyptians were killed.
5. Jews today still celebrate the Passover Meal. They have unleavened bread, lamb, salt water, bitter herbs, a fruit mixture, and four cups of wine. Each item is symbolic and has meaning to the Jews.
6. Matthew 26-30 is very important in Christianity. It is the Lord's Supper or Communion and is one of the major observances or ordinances in the life of Christians. The other major ordinance is Baptism.
7. Jesus knew his disciples would flee from him that very night. He was realistic about the humanness of his followers. It also shows that Peter felt free to disagree with Jesus, and shows his over-confidence in himself. Later that confidence would be replaced by humility.
8. The Romans and the Jews divided the night into four watches:

First: 6pm-9 pm; Second: 9pm to midnight;

Third: midnight to 3am; and Fourth: 3am to 6:am.

It was between the third and fourth watch that the cock was supposed to crow. Jesus said that before the dawn came, Peter would deny him three times.

# The Gospel Of Matthew

## Lesson 79 - Matthew 26: 36-56 Gethsemane

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went / with his disciples / to a place called Gethsemane, / and he said to them, / “Sit here / while I go over there and pray.” / <sup>37</sup> He took Peter / and the two sons of Zebedee / along with him, / and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. /

<sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, / “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow / to the point of death. / Stay here / and keep watch with me.”

<sup>39</sup> Going a little farther, / he fell with his face to the ground / and prayed, / “My Father, / if it is possible, / may this cup be taken from me. / Yet not as I will, / but as you will.”



<sup>40</sup> Then he returned to his disciples / and found them sleeping. / “Couldn’t you men / keep watch with me / for one hour?” / he asked Peter. <sup>41</sup> “Watch and pray / so that you will not fall into temptation. / The spirit is willing, / but the flesh is weak.”

<sup>42</sup> He went away a second time / and prayed, / “My Father, / if it is not possible / for this cup to be taken away / unless I drink it, / may your will be done.”

<sup>43</sup> When he came back, / he again found them sleeping, / because their eyes were heavy. / <sup>44</sup> So he left them / and went away once more / and prayed the third time, / saying the same thing.

<sup>45</sup> Then he returned to the disciples / and said to them, / “Are you still sleeping and resting? / Look, the hour has come, / and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. / <sup>46</sup> Rise! / Let us go! / Here comes my betrayer!”

### **Jesus Arrested**

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, / Judas, / one of the Twelve, / arrived. / With him was a large crowd / armed with swords and clubs, / sent from the chief priests / and the elders of the people. / <sup>48</sup> Now / the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: / “The one I kiss / is the man; / arrest him.” <sup>49</sup> Going at once to Jesus, / Judas said, / “Greetings, / Rabbi!” / and kissed him.

<sup>50</sup> Jesus replied, / “Do what you came for, / friend.”

Then the men stepped forward, / seized Jesus / and arrested him. /

<sup>51</sup> With that, / one of Jesus’ companions / reached for his sword, / drew it out / and struck the servant of the high priest, / cutting off his ear.

<sup>52</sup> “Put your sword back in its place,” / Jesus said to him, / “for all who draw the sword / will die by the sword. / <sup>53</sup> Do you think / I cannot call on my Father, / and he will at once / put at my disposal /



more than twelve legions of angels? / <sup>54</sup> But how then / would the Scriptures be fulfilled / that say / it must happen in this way?"

<sup>55</sup> In that hour / Jesus said to the crowd, / "Am I leading a rebellion, / that you have come out / with swords and clubs to capture me? / Every day I sat in the temple courts / teaching, / and you did not arrest me. / <sup>56</sup> But this / has all taken place / that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." / Then all the disciples deserted him / and fled.

### ***Vocabulary***

1. Sorrowful: Feeling or showing grief.
2. Overwhelmed: Be too strong for; overpower
3. "May this cup": Trouble, death, and crucifixion.
3. Seized: Take hold of suddenly and forcibly
4. At my disposal: Available for one to use whenever or however one wishes.
5. To desert: Abandon in a way considered disloyal or treacherous.
6. To flee, fled, fled: To run away from a place of danger.

<b>Adjective</b>	<b>Noun</b>	<b>Verb</b>	<b>Adverb</b>
	Desertion	To desert	

## **Questions**

1. Why do you think Judas knew where to find Jesus and the disciples after the Passover meal?
2. Why would Jesus go into the garden to pray? Why didn't he just leave town?
3. Where were the rest of the disciples after Jesus left with Peter, James and John?
4. What were the prayers of Jesus this night?
5. What does "the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak," mean?
6. How did Judas identify Jesus for the arresting officers?
7. If Jesus called on God for help, what did Jesus say God would send?
8. What does it mean: For those who live by the sword, will die by the sword?"

## **Notes:**

1. Jerusalem at Passover was a city filled with people from many countries of the world. There was no private space and Jerusalem had no public gardens. However, on the slopes of the Mount of Olives was a private garden, and Jesus had permission to use this area. Jesus had many friends, unnamed to us, who supplied his needs. One man gave him an ass to ride into

Jerusalem on, another gave him the Upper Room for his Passover Feast, and another gave him entry into his garden.

2. Gethsemane means olive-vat or olive garden. Here olive trees and quiet surrounded Jesus. It was late and all the disciples were tired.
3. Jesus asked Peter, James, and John to accompany him. They are considered the “inner circle” of the disciples. The four walked a short distance away, so Jesus could pray.
4. In this passage, Barclay tells us that we can find four things. The first is the agony of Jesus. No person would choose to die at the age of 33. “Here Jesus had his supreme struggle to submit his will to the will of God. No one can read this story without seeing the intense reality of that struggle.” Obviously, Jesus knew he was facing death.
5. Jesus had to face this all alone. He took his three disciples, but they fell asleep. Many battles we each must face alone. Yet Jesus faced God and that was important, for he came through this agony with a determination to do the will of God.
6. Jesus trusted God. He began his prayer with the familiar word for Father, Abba, what we would say as “Daddy”. This informal family word shows the close relationship Jesus had with God.

7. Finally, we see the courage of Jesus. The time of prayer and quietness was over. Jesus woke his disciples and they turned to meet those who came to arrest him.
8. Judas came with the Temple Police, but also with a mob. It is good to note that the Romans soldiers had not yet entered into this arrest.
9. One of the disciples took his sword or dagger out and cut off the ear of a servant of the High Priest. Jesus wanted no violence, and he stopped any fighting. When the Gospel of John tells this story, he says that the disciple was Peter, and the servant was Malchus. Here we see that Peter was willing to fight and take on the crowd. Then Peter followed the crowd. The others fled.

## The Gospel Of Matthew

### Lesson 80 - Matthew 26: 57-75 Jesus Before the Sanhedrin

<sup>57</sup> Those / who had arrested Jesus / took him to Caiaphas the high priest, / where the teachers of the law / and the elders had assembled. / <sup>58</sup> But Peter followed him at a distance, / right up to the courtyard / of the high priest. / He entered / and sat down with the guards / to see the outcome.

<sup>59</sup> The chief priests / and the whole Sanhedrin / were looking for false evidence against Jesus / so that they could put him to death. /

<sup>60</sup> But they did not find any, / though many false witnesses came forward.



Finally / two came forward / <sup>61</sup> and declared, / “This fellow said, / ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God / and rebuild it in three days.’”

<sup>62</sup> Then the high priest stood up / and said to Jesus, / “Are you not going to answer? / What is this testimony / that these men are bringing against you?” / <sup>63</sup> But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, / “I charge you under oath by the living God: / Tell us if you are the Messiah, / the Son of God.”

<sup>64</sup> “You have said so,” / Jesus replied. / “But I say to all of you: / From now on / you will see the Son of Man / sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One / and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

<sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his clothes / and said, / “He has spoken blasphemy! / Why do we need any more witnesses? / Look, / now you have heard the blasphemy. / <sup>66</sup> What do you think?”

“He is worthy of death,” / they answered.

<sup>67</sup> Then they spit in his face / and struck him with their fists. / Others slapped him / <sup>68</sup> and said, / “Prophecy to us, / Messiah. / Who hit you?”

### **Peter Disowns Jesus**

<sup>69</sup> Now / Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, / and a servant girl came to him. / “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” / she said.

<sup>70</sup> But he denied it before them all. / “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” / he said.

<sup>71</sup> Then he went out to the gateway, / where another servant girl saw him / and said to the people there, / “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

<sup>72</sup> He denied it again, / with an oath: / “I don’t know the man!”

<sup>73</sup> After a little while, / those standing there / went up to Peter / and said, / “Surely you are one of them; / your accent gives you away.”

<sup>74</sup> Then he began to call down curses, / and he swore to them, / “I don’t know the man!”

Immediately a rooster crowed. / <sup>75</sup> Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: / “Before the rooster crows, / you will disown me three times.” / And he went outside / and wept bitterly.

### ***Vocabulary***

1. To assemble: Gather together in one place for a common purpose.
2. Under oath: Have sworn to tell the truth, especially in a court of law.
3. Testimony: A written formal statement given in a court of law.  
Evidence of proof given in a court of law.
4. Blasphemy: Speaking sacrilegiously about God and sacred things.
5. To deny: To refuse to admit the truth.
6. To disown: Refuse to acknowledge or maintain any connection

with. *The angry father disowned his only son.*

7. Bitter: A sharp taste or smell. Not sweet. Anger, hurt or resentment felt because of unjust treatment.

Adjective	Noun	Verb	Adverb
	Assembly	To assemble	
	Denial	To deny	
Bitter (Flap /d/)			Bitterly

### **Questions**

1. What is the Jewish Sanhedrin? Can you compare it to a court in your land?
2. What was the purpose of this night trial?
3. What does “You have said so” mean? Do you think all understood what Jesus said?
4. Why didn’t Jesus just lie?
5. Which disciple followed Jesus? Why?
6. What did Peter learn about himself?
7. Do you think Peter was courageous or foolish to stay in the courtyard?



## **Notes**

1. Sanhedrin: The religious court, whose membership was drawn from the Jewish ruling classes, that held ruling authority over the territory of Palestine under the Roman empire. The Sanhedrin was responsible for census-taking and taxation as well as acting as a court that would decide cases on its own and also, after preliminary determination, send cases on to the Roman governors.

—*The New Oxford Annotated Bible, NRSV. 2010*

2. Caiaphas was the son-in-law of Annas by marriage to his daughter and ruled longer than any high priest in New Testament times.
3. The process of the trial or trials of Jesus is a little difficult. It seems to have 3 parts. The first part took place during the night in the home of the High Priest Caiaphas with the “whole” Sanhedrin present. (Matthew 26: 57)
4. The second part took place first thing in the morning in front of the Sanhedrin, and is described in Matthew 27:1-2. The third part took place before the Roman Governor, Pilate, and is described in Matthew 27: 11-26.
5. The first or night trial of Jesus was illegal. The strict regulations of the Sanhedrin stated that all trials, such as this one, must be held in the daytime. No criminal cases could be handled during

Passover at all. There were many other rules of the Sanhedrin that the members broke or ignored in the trial of Jesus.

6. The Sanhedrin, the Supreme Court of the Jews, required 71 members, and the quorum was 23 present. A quorum is the minimum number of members / of an assembly or society / that must be present / at any of its meetings / to make the proceedings of that meeting valid.
7. The main business of the night was to figure out a charge against Jesus. So, the “witnesses” twisted what Jesus actually said to make him look guilty of blasphemy.
8. Jesus did not reply to the charge. He was silent; and the law states, “no person on trial could either be asked or forced (compelled) to answer any question which could incriminate him.”
9. The words, “You have said so” according to the 2010 NRSV Annotated Bible, are totally accepted by the population to mean, “Yes. Then Jesus quoted from Daniel 7. Remember, *the son of man* can also mean human person. (NRSV, notes. 2010)
10. Caiaphas asks THE question: Are you the Messiah? If Jesus said *no*, there could be no charge against him. But Jesus said, “You have said so” and that signed his death warrant. Immediately, he was convicted of Blasphemy.

11. Meanwhile, out in the courtyard we find Peter had followed Jesus. He evidently could not leave Jesus, but what could he actually do? The story could only have been told by Peter himself.



Peter before the fire in the courtyard.

