### Matthew

## Chapter 26

1Well, after Jesus had finished saying all these things, he told his disciples this:  
  
 2‘You know that the Passover will be here in just two days, and the Son of Man is going to be betrayed and hung on a pole.’  
  
  
  
3Meanwhile, the Chief Priests and the peoples’ elders had all gathered in the courtyard of the High Priest (who was called CaiAphas) 4to discuss sneaky ways to grab Jesus and kill him.  
  
5However, they decided not [to do it] at the festival, because that would have created a commotion among the people.  
  
6Then, while Jesus was in BethAny at the house of Simon the leper, 7a woman arrived carrying an expensive alabaster case of perfumed oil. She came to him as he was lying down and started pouring it over his head. 8When the disciples saw what she was doing, they were bothered by it and they asked her:  
  
 ‘Why are you wasting this? 9We could have sold this for a lot [of money] and given it to the poor!’  
  
10But Jesus asked:  
  
 ‘Why are you bothering this woman? She just did a nice thing for me! 11You’ll always have the poor, but you won’t always have me.  
  
 12‘When this woman poured the oil on my body, she did it to prepare me for my burial. 13And I tell you the truth: wherever this good news is preached throughout the entire world, what this woman did for me will be told in memory of her!’  
  
  
  
14Well after that, one of the 12 (the one called Judas IsCariot) went to the Chief Priests 15and asked them:  
  
 ‘What will you give me if I betray [Jesus] to you?’  
  
And they told him that they’d pay him 30 silver coins [which is about a month’s wage]. 16So from that point on, [Judas] started looking for a good opportunity to betray [Jesus].  
  
17Now, since it was [just before] the first day of [Passover], Jesus’ disciples came up to him and asked:  
  
 ‘Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?’  
  
18And he told them:  
  
 ‘Go into the city to (a certain person), and tell him that the Teacher says:  
  
 ‘My appointed time is near, so I’ll celebrate the Passover with my disciples in your home.’  
  
19Therefore, the disciples went and did just as Jesus told them and they got everything ready for the Passover.  
  
  
20Then later that evening, while [Jesus] was reclining at the table 21eating with the 12 disciples, he said to them:  
  
 ‘I tell you the truth; one of you will betray me.’  
  
22Well, they were all deeply saddened by this, and they each asked him:  
  
 ‘Lord, it isn’t me, is it?’  
  
23Then he said:  
  
 ‘One [of you] who has dipped his hand into this bowl with me will betray me.  
  
 24‘It’s a fact that the Son of Man must leave… Just as it was written about him. But woe to the one through whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would be better for him had he never been born!’  
  
25Then Judas (the one who was about to betray him) asked:  
  
 ‘That isn’t what I am, is it Rabbi?’  
  
And [Jesus] replied:  
  
 ‘You said it yourself.’  
  
26Well thereafter, as they were eating, Jesus took a loaf, and after giving thanks, he broke it and distributed it among the disciples and said:  
  
 ‘Take some of this and eat it, because this is my body.’  
  
27He also took a cup [of wine], and after giving thanks, he passed it among them and said:  
  
 ‘All of you should drink from this; 28for indeed, this is my blood of the Sacred Agreement with the many, which is being poured out for the forgiveness of their sins.  
  
 29‘However, I’m telling you now that I definitely won’t be drinking the product of the vine anymore until the day that I drink it with you as it has never been drunk before, in the Kingdom of my Father.’  
  
30And finally, after singing songs of praise, they walked out to the Mount of Olives.  
  
31[There] Jesus said to them:  
  
 ‘All of you will be stumbled [by what will happen to] me tonight, because it’s written:  
  
 ‘When the shepherd is struck, the sheep will be scattered.’ [Zechariah 13:7; see note]  
  
32‘But after I wake up, I’ll go ahead of you into Galilee.’  
  
33However, Peter said to him:  
  
 ‘Although the others may be trapped, I’ll never stumble!’  
  
34And Jesus said:  
  
 ‘I tell you the truth: Before a rooster crows tonight, you’ll have denied knowing me three times.’  
  
35Yet, Peter just kept on talking. He said:  
  
 ‘Even if I have to die with you, I’ll never deny knowing you!’  
  
And all the other disciples were saying the same thing.  
  
36Then Jesus took his disciples to the spot called GethSemane (the Oil Press), and he said to them:  
  
 ‘Now, sit here while I go over there to pray.’  
  
37Well, he took Peter and the two sons of ZebediOu with him… And then he became very sad and deeply disturbed, 38and he said to them:  
  
 ‘My soul has been saddened to the point of death. So, please wait here and stay awake with me.’  
  
39Then, going a little way forward, he fell to his face and started praying, saying:  
  
 ‘My Father; if it’s possible, let this cup pass from me. However, not my will, but Yours.’  
  
40However, when he returned to the disciples, he found them sleeping.  
So he asked Peter:  
  
 ‘Aren’t you strong enough to stay awake with me for just an hour? 41You should stay awake and pray that you won’t be put to the test! But indeed… Although the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak.’  
  
42So he went off and prayed a second time, saying:  
  
 ‘My Father; if this can’t pass and I have to drink it, may Your Will be done.’  
  
43And when he got back, he found them sleeping again, because their eyes were heavy. 44So then he left them and went to pray a third time, and he said the same things once more. 45And when he got back to his disciples, he said to them:  
  
 ‘Here you’re resting and sleeping… And look! The time has arrived when the Son of Man will be handed over to sinners. 46Get up… Let’s go! Look! Here comes my betrayer!’  
  
47And while he was still speaking, {Look!} Judas (one of the 12) arrived with a large mob of Priests and elders, each of whom was carrying a sword or a club!  
  
48Now, the betrayer had given them a sign to watch for. He said:  
  
 ‘Whomever I kiss is the one… Grab him!’  
  
49And going straight up to Jesus, [Judas] greeted him with the words, ‘Rejoice, Rabbi!’ as he tenderly kissed him.  
  
50But Jesus said to him:  
  
 ‘Man, just why are you here?’  
  
Then [some of the mob] came up and grabbed Jesus, and they tied him up. 51However, {Look!} one of those who was with Jesus reached down and unsheathed his sword, and he struck the Chief Priest’s slave, taking off his ear.  
  
52But then Jesus said to him:  
  
 ‘Put your sword away! For all who take up the sword will perish by the sword!  
  
 53‘Don’t you realize that I can ask my Father to immediately send more than 12 battalions of angels? 54But if [I did] that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?’  
  
55Then Jesus spoke to the mob and said:  
  
 ‘Have you come with swords and clubs to arrest me like some robber? I used to sit and teach in the Temple every day, and you didn’t choose to grab me then! 56However, all of this has happened so that the writings of the Prophets can be fulfilled.’  
  
Well at that, all the disciples ran away and left him.  
  
57So then, those who had arrested Jesus carried him off to [the house of] CaiAphas the High Priest, where the Scribes and the elders had already assembled.  
  
58Meanwhile, Peter followed the group some distance behind all the way to the courtyard of the High Priest. Then he went inside and sat among the building supervisory staff, to see what would happen.  
  
59At the time, the Chief Priests and those of the Judean High Court had been trying to find [someone who would] lie about Jesus, so they could condemn him [to death]. 60However, of all those who came forward, none were willing to perjure themselves.  
  
Yet later on, two did come forward that said:  
  
 61‘This man told us that he could tear down the temple sanctuary of The God and rebuild it in just three days.’  
  
62And after they heard that, the High Priest stood up and asked Jesus:  
  
 ‘Don’t you have a reply? What are these people accusing you of?’  
  
63However, Jesus just remained silent.  
  
So the High Priest said to him:  
  
 ‘By the living God, I put you under oath to tell us whether you’re the Anointed One… The Son of The God!’  
  
64And Jesus replied:  
  
 ‘You’re saying it yourself!  
  
 ‘Now, let me tell you something: from this point on, you’ll see the Son of Man sitting at [His] powerful right hand and coming on the clouds in the sky!’  
  
65Well at that, the High Priest ripped his clothes and he shouted:  
  
 ‘He has blasphemed!  
  
 ‘Why do we need any more witnesses? See… Now you’ve actually heard the blasphemy! 66Therefore, what’s your opinion?’  
  
And everyone shouted:  
  
 ‘Hold him for death!’  
  
67Then after that, some of them started spitting in his face and hitting him with their fists, as others were slapping him 68and saying:  
  
 ‘Prophesy to us, O Anointed One… Which of us hit you?’  
  
69Meanwhile, as Peter was still sitting outside in the courtyard, a servant girl came up to him and said:  
  
 ‘You were also with this Jesus the Galilean!’  
  
70However, he denied it in front of everyone, and said:  
  
 ‘I don’t know what she’s talking about!’  
  
71Then as he [was walking out towards] the gatehouse, another girl noticed him and said to everyone there:  
  
 ‘This man was with Jesus the Nazarene!’  
  
72And once again he denied it with an oath, saying:  
  
 ‘I never knew the man!’  
  
73But then all those who were standing around came up and said to him:  
  
 ‘Sure, you’re one of them! Why, your accent gives you away!’  
  
74So Peter started cursing at them and swore:  
  
 ‘I don’t know the man!’  
  
And immediately, a rooster crowed.  
  
75It was then that Peter remembered Jesus’ words:  
  
 ‘Before a rooster crows you will have denied that you know me three times.’  
  
So he went outside and cried bitterly.