

The Trial

Lesson Twenty-Three

Matthew 26, 27; Mark 14, 15;
Luke 22, 23; John 18

The next two lessons will deal with the Passion of our Lord. Events begin in the evening after Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper. Jesus goes to the garden of Gethsemane to pray. Judas arrives at that place with armed men to take Jesus prisoner. Throughout the night, Jesus is taken to various locations for hearings before officials. Eventually the death sentence is pronounced, and Jesus is taken to be executed. Once He is dead, friends take His body and put it into a tomb. The events covered are those that occurred on the days we refer to as Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

JESUS IN GETHSEMANE

Matthew 26; Mark 14;
Luke 22; John 18

It is Thursday evening. The Lord has washed the feet of His disciples. He has just instituted the Lord's Supper. He has communicated to Judas that He knows what Judas is about to do. The Lord is aware that the time for His death has come. He takes His disciples and goes to the Garden of Gethsemane to spend time in prayer.

And when they had sung a hymn, they went over the brook Kidron into the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "All of you shall fall away because of Me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.' But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee." Peter answered and said to Him, "Though all men shall fall away because of You, yet will I never fall away." Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you, that this night before the cock crows twice, you shall deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Though I should die with You, yet I will not deny You." Likewise also said all the disciples.

Where will Jesus meet His disciples after he has risen? Galilee

What will happen to all of the disciples? They will fall away; be scattered

Who says he will even die with Jesus? Peter

Is what he says true? no

Read Matthew 26:36-46 to see about Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane.
(Slide 1, 2, 3, 4)

Which three disciples go further in the garden than the others?

1.) Peter 2.) James 3.) John

How does Jesus feel at this time? Sorrowful, troubled

Does Jesus want to go through what awaits Him? no

What does "Not as I will, but as you will" mean? He will do what God wants
whether He wants to or not

What kind of trouble are the disciples experiencing? sleepiness

Who is coming? Judas

JUDAS BETRAYS THE SAVIOR

Matthew 26; Mark 14;

Luke 22; John 18

And while He yet spoke, Judas came and with him a great multitude 5 with swords and clubs from the chief priests and elders of the people. Jesus, therefore, knowing all things that should come upon Him, went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." As soon as He had said this to them, they went backward and fell to the ground. Then He asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am He. If, therefore, you seek Me, let these go their way." Now he that betrayed Him gave them a sign saying, "Whomever I shall kiss, that is He. Hold Him fast." And he came to Jesus and said, "Hail, Master" and kissed Him. And Jesus said to him, 6 "Friend, why have you come? Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

What request does Jesus make of his captors? Let the disciples go

Who kisses Jesus? Judas

The capture of Jesus is not without some violence. Peter will lose his nerve and deny Jesus later; but at the moment of capture, he is ready for a fight.

When they who were with Him saw what would follow, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" Then Peter drew his sword and struck a servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. 7 The servant's name was Malchus. Then said Jesus to him, "Put up your sword into the sheath. For all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. The cup that My Father has given Me, shall I not drink it? Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels? But how, then, shall the Scriptures be fulfilled that thus it must be?" And He touched the servant's ear and healed him.

Do the disciples think of fighting the armed men? yes

Who hurts Malchus? Peter

If Jesus intended to escape the death He was about to endure, who would rescue

Him? Twelve legions of angels

Why doesn't He send for help? He must do what He came to do

Jesus has told the disciples that all of them would flee. It does not take long for them to lose their nerve and run. **Read Matthew 26:55-56.**

The prophesy fulfilled is probably Zechariah 13:7 which indicates Jesus will be taken by the sword and His followers will scatter. If the officials had taken Jesus when He was in the temple, they would not have used the display of power; and perhaps the disciples would not have scattered. The priests have unwittingly helped show that Jesus is He of whom the prophets spoke.

What happens to the disciples? They flee

JESUS BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST

Matthew 26; Mark 14;

Luke 22; John 18

Once Jesus is captured, His captors are not sure what to do with Him. They spend a good share of the night going from official to official trying to find a crime with which to charge Him and then trying to determine who has jurisdiction in this matter. The first stop is to Annas, father-in-law of the high priest Caiaphas. Annas had been the high priest, but the Romans had removed him from power. Many of the people probably still considered him to be the real high priest.

Read John 18:12-14, 19-24. (Slide 8, 9, 10)

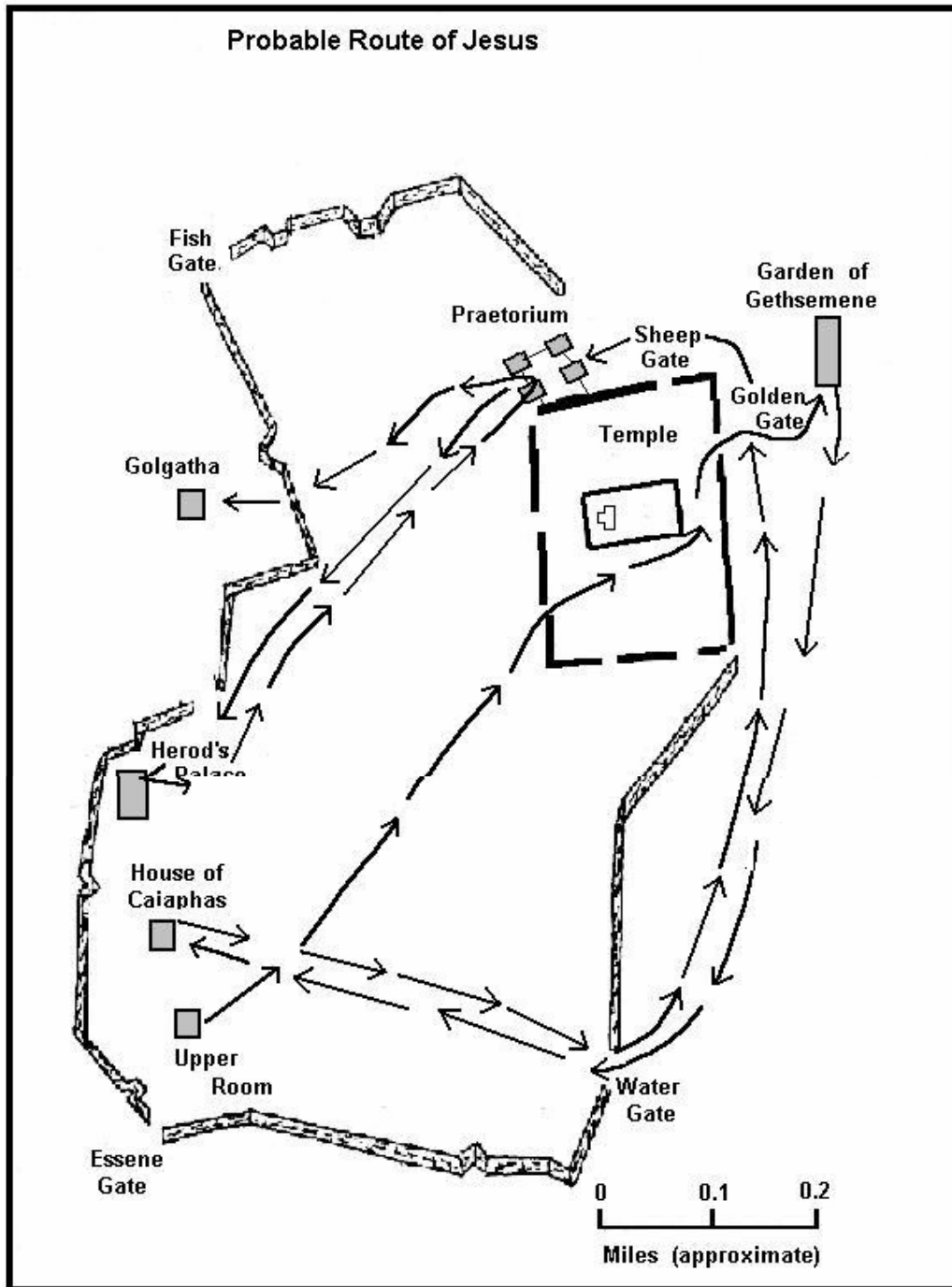
What happens to Jesus after He addresses the questions? He is struck

Can they tell Jesus what He has said that is wrong? no

Where does Annas send Jesus? To Caiaphas

*Now Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas, **11** the high priest, and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes. Now the chief priests and elders and all the council sought false witness against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. Though many false witnesses came, they found none who could agree. At last came two false witnesses and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" The high priest arose and stood in the midst and said to Him, "Do You give no answer. What is this testimony which these witnesses bring against You?" But Jesus held His peace. The high priest said to Him, "I adjure You by the living God to tell us*

whether you be the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said, "I am. Nevertheless I say to you, hereafter shall you see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes saying, "He has spoken blasphemy. What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have heard His blasphemy. What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is guilty of death."



Does a false witness tell the truth? no

Is it easy to find false witnesses who agree? no

It was the law that two witnesses must agree before their testimony would be considered valid.

Will Jesus answer the charges of the two false witnesses who agree? no

Of what charge do they finally convict Jesus? blasphemy

Has Jesus blasphemed? no

What punishment will they seek for Jesus? death

Jesus must now suffer the injury of being abused and mocked by his captors. **Read Mark 14:65.**

What happens to Jesus? Spit on and beaten

PETER DENIES CHRIST JUDAS HANGS HIMSELF

Matthew 26, 27;
Luke 22; John 18

Peter and another disciple do follow as Jesus is taken away to the high priest.

Simon Peter followed Jesus and so did another disciple. That disciple was known to the high priest and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door outside. Then that other disciple went out and spoke to her that kept the door and brought in Peter. The servants and officers had made a fire of coals, for it was cold and they warmed themselves. Peter sat down among them to see the end.

Why are Peter and the other disciple allowed into the courtyard? The other disciple knows the High Priest

Read Matthew 26:69-75 to see what happens to Peter while he is in the courtyard. (Slide 12)

Who first asks Peter about his relationship with Jesus? Servant girl

What is Peter's response? Denies knowing Jesus

Who next asks Peter about Jesus? Another girl

What is Peter's response? He denies knowing Jesus

Why does the group think Peter must be one of the followers of Jesus? His accent

What is Peter's response? He denies knowing Jesus

What does Peter do to back up his answer? He curses

What does Peter do after the rooster crows? Goes outside and weeps

Peter must deal with his denial. He obviously is very disappointed in himself. Judas also must deal with what he has done. Things have not gone the way he thought they would.



When the morning had come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus and when they had bound Him, they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate, **13** the governor. Then Judas, who had betrayed Him, when he saw that He was condemned to death, repented **14** and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders saying, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to that."

Is Judas sorry for what he has done? yes

Are the chief priests and elders sympathetic when he talks to them? no

Read Matthew 27:5-10 to see what Judas does next. (Slide 15)

What does Judas do with the money? Throws it down

Then what does he do? Hangs himself

What do the priests do with the money? Buy the potter's field

What two aspects of the words of Jeremiah quoted here were fulfilled?

1.) sold for 30 pieces of silver 2.) money used to buy a potter's field

CHRIST BEFORE PILATE

Matthew 27; Mark 15;

Luke 23; John 18

The priests have decided that they have a basis in their own law for killing Jesus. However, they must receive permission from the Roman officials in order to have Jesus

executed. They take Him to Pontius Pilate, hoping that he can be persuaded to pass such judgment against Jesus.

Read John 18:28-31.

Do they reveal the charges against Jesus? no

Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again and called Jesus and said to Him, 16 "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Do you say this thing by yourself or did others tell it to you?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now is My kingdom not from here." Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone that is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, "I find in Him no fault at all."



And when He was accused of the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then said Pilate to Him, "Do You hear how many things they witness against You?" And He answered him never a word, and the governor marveled greatly.

Is Jesus' kingdom of this world? no

Does Pilate find any reason to punish Jesus? no

Does Jesus answer the charges of the chief priests and the elders? no

Read Luke 23:5-12 to see how Pilate tries to get out of this situation. (Slide 17, 18)

To whom does Pilate send Jesus? Herod

What does Herod hope to see Jesus do? A miracle

Does Jesus answer Herod? no

What does Herod do with Jesus after mocking Him? Sends Him back to Pilate

What is the change in the relationship between Pilate and Herod? They were

enemies, but they became friends

REVIEW

1. Will all of the disciples fall away from Jesus? yes
2. Who will deny Jesus three times? Peter
3. Where does Jesus go to pray? Gethsemene
4. Can the disciples stay awake? no
5. Who cuts off Malchus' ear? Peter
6. To whom is Jesus taken first? Annas
7. Then whom? Caiaphas
8. What sin does Caiaphas say Jesus has committed? blasphemy
9. To whom is Jesus sent next? Pilate
10. Why? they need permission to execute Jesus
11. Does Pilate find Jesus to be guilty of breaking any law? no
12. Where is Jesus sent next? Herod
13. Is Herod glad to see Jesus? yes
14. Why? He hopes to see a miracle
15. Then where is Jesus sent? Back to Pilate