

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, January 28, 2024

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 115. “Preparing for Death” – Matthew 26:1-16

Pastor Phillip M Way

Intro: Will Passover only days away, Jesus is now facing the cross. We see the plotting priests, the preparations of the betrayer, Judas Iscariot, and we realize that “Jesus’ death is not a defeat for divine purposes. It is the basis of His eternal sovereignty.” (RT France, NICNT)

- I. Passover – vs. 1-2
 - A. The Context
 1. Passover Fulfilled: Saving His People from Their Sin
 2. Remembrance Nights – Exodus 12:42
 - a. Third Night – the redemption of Israel from Egypt at Passover
 - b. Fourth Night – Messianic redemption at the end of the age
 - B. Jesus Predicts His Crucifixion – Matt. 16:21; 17:22; 20:18
- II. Plotting Priests – vs. 3-5 – Psalm 2:2
 - A. Caiphas the High Priest
 1. Political position appointed by the Governor
 2. Appointed in AD 18 by Valarius Gratus (Pilate’s predecessor)
 3. Served 18 years, to AD 36
 4. Between AD 37-67 there were 28 high priests appointed and deposed
 5. Prophet or politician – John 11:47-50
 - B. Seize by Stealth – “deceit”
 - C. Fearing the Crowds – to be betrayed in the dark
- III. Precious Perfume – vs. 6-13
 - A. Mary, the Brother of Lazarus – John 12:1-8 (see also Mark 14:1-11)
 1. Not an impulsive decision – John 12:7
 2. Always at Jesus’ feet – Luke 10:39; John 11:32 (to learn from)
 - B. The Perfume
 1. Expensive – 300 Denari – 1 years wages
 2. An act of love – “good work” = beautiful, lovely
 3. She gave it all – Mark 14:3
 4. Myrrh – Gk: *muron*
 - a. Gold – kings
 - b. Frankincense – priests
 - c. Myrrh – prophets and the dead
 - C. The Fuming Disciples – Quote #1
 1. Concern about the cost
 2. It was Judas who objected – John 12:4
 3. You will always have the poor
 - D. Anointing for Burial – John 19:38-42; Psa. 23:5; 45:6-8
 1. A shameful death and a hurried burial – Luke 23:50-56; Mark 16:1
 2. She prepared beforehand!
 - E. Mary to Always Be Remembered
- IV. Priests Pay the Price – vs. 14 - Thirty Pieces of Silver – Exodus 21:32; Hos. 3:2; Zech. 11:4-14; Matt. 27:3-5

Cross References

Exodus 12:42

42 It is a night to be kept for Yahweh for having brought them out from the land of Egypt; this night is for Yahweh, to be kept by all the sons of Israel throughout their generations.

Matthew 16:21

21 From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

Matthew 17:22

22 And while they were gathering together in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men;

Matthew 20:18

18 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death,

John 11:47-50

47 Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Sanhedrin together, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is doing many signs. 48 If we let Him go on like this, all will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." 49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you take into account that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish."

John 12:1-8

12 Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; and Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him. 3 Mary then took a litra of perfume of very costly pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was going to betray Him, *said, 5 "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" 6 Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to take from what was put into it. 7 Therefore Jesus said, "Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial. 8 For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me."

Mark 14:1-11

14 Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread were two days away; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how, after seizing Him in secret, they might kill Him; 2 for they were saying, "Not during the festival, lest there be a riot of the people." 3 And while He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, there came a woman with an alabaster jar of perfume of very costly pure nard; and she broke the jar and poured it over His head. 4 But some were indignantly remarking to one another, "Why has this perfume been wasted? 5 For this perfume might have been sold for over three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they were scolding her. 6 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you bother her? She did a good work to Me. 7 For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them; but you do not always have Me. 8 She has done what she could; she anointed My body beforehand for the burial. 9 And truly I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed

in the whole world, what this woman did will also be spoken of in memory of her.” 10 Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went away to the chief priests in order to betray Him to them. 11 And when they heard this, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he began seeking how to betray Him at an opportune time.

Luke 10:39

39 And she had a sister called Mary, who was also seated at the Lord’s feet, listening to His word.

John 11:32

32 Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Mark 14:3

3 And while He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper, and reclining at the table, there came a woman with an alabaster jar of perfume of very costly pure nard; and she broke the jar and poured it over His head.

Quote 1 – Charles Spurgeon

“When you do the best you can do, from the purest motives, and your Lord accepts your service, do not expect that your brethren will approve all your actions. If you do, you will be greatly disappointed.”

John 12:4

4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was going to betray Him, *said,

John 19:38-42

38 Now after these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body. 39 And Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about one hundred litras. 40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. 41 Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. 42 Therefore because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Psalms 23:5

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

Psalms 45:6-8

6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom. 7 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of joy above Your companions. 8 All Your garments are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia; Out of ivory palaces stringed instruments have made You glad.

Luke 23:50-56

50 And behold, a man named Joseph, who was a Council member, a good and righteous man 51 (he had not consented to their counsel and action), a man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who was waiting for

the kingdom of God; 52 this man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. 53 And he took it down and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain. 54 It was Preparation day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. 55 Now the women, who had come with Him from Galilee, followed and beheld the tomb and how His body was laid. 56 Then after they returned, they prepared spices and perfumes. And on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Mark 16:1

16 And when the Sabbath passed, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him.

Exodus 21:32

32 If the ox gores a male or female slave, the owner shall give his or her master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.

Hosea 3:2

2 So I bargained for her for myself for fifteen shekels of silver and a homer and a half of barley.

Zechariah 11:4-14

4 Thus says Yahweh my God, “Shepherd the flock doomed to slaughter. 5 Those who buy them slaughter them and are not held guilty, and each of those who sell them says, ‘Blessed be Yahweh. Indeed, I have become rich!’ And their own shepherds do not spare them. 6 For I will no longer spare the inhabitants of the land,” declares Yahweh; “but behold, I will cause the men to fall, each into another’s hand and into the hand of his king; and they will crush the land, and I will not deliver them from their hand.” 7 So I shepherded the flock doomed to slaughter—hence the afflicted of the flock. And I took for myself two staffs: the one I called Favor, and the other I called Union; so I shepherded the flock. 8 Then I annihilated the three shepherds in one month, for my soul was impatient with them, and their soul also was weary of me. 9 Then I said, “I will not shepherd you. What is to die, let it die, and what is to be annihilated, let it be annihilated; and let those who remain consume one another’s flesh.” 10 And I took my staff Favor and cut it in pieces, to break my covenant which I had cut with all the peoples. 11 So it was broken on that day, and thus the afflicted of the flock who were watching me knew that it was the word of Yahweh. 12 And I said to them, “If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!” So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages. 13 Then Yahweh said to me, “Throw it to the potter, that valuable price at which I was valued by them.” So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of Yahweh. 14 Then I cut in pieces my second staff Union, to break the brotherhood between Judah and Israel.

Matthew 27:3-5

3 Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See to that yourself!” 5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.