

Readings from Matthew chapter 26—May 22nd-28th, 2022

¹ Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, *that* He said to His disciples, ² “You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.” ³ Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, ⁴ and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill *Him*. ⁵ But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.” ⁶ And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured *it* on His head as He sat *at the table*. ⁸ But when His disciples saw *it*, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? ⁹ For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to *the* poor.” ¹⁰ But when Jesus was aware of *it*, He said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. ¹¹ For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. ¹² For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did *it* for My burial. ¹³ Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”

Sunday: **What was Passover?** **Pray** with Orlando, Fla., RPC for God’s sovereign grace in all facets of life. **Pray** for the outreach efforts by Airdrie (Scotland) RPC.

Monday: **How is Jesus in His three-fold office (priest, prophet, king) mocked in vv. 3-4?** **Pray** that God would use the elder training class of Rochester (East Rochester, N.Y.) RPC to prepare men to minister effectively as future elders. **Pray** that the global church would resist the temptation to adopt worldly views.

Tuesday: **What else do we know about Caiaphas? Read John 11:49-53. Praise the Lord** for frequent new visitors at Christ (Floyd, N.Y.) RPC; **pray** that they find zeal and understanding for psalm singing and Reformed preaching. **Pray** for blessing upon T.J. Pattillo, who graduates today from Metra Atlanta Seminary.

Wednesday: **What is alabaster?** **Pray** for the Lord’s blessing upon Providence (Pittsburgh, Pa.) RPC’s efforts to look more intently for a better facility—a property with a better parking lot and room for the many children. **Pray** for Okamoto Keiyaku (Kobe, Japan) RPC in its evangelistic outreach.

Thursday: **Why did Jesus praise this woman?** **Pray** for Anugraha RPC that God would give them wisdom as they navigate worshiping and ministering in a setting that is sometimes hostile toward those of minority religious groups. **Pray** for the growth in sanctification for every member of Frankston (Australia) RPC.

Friday: **Is v. 11 a commentary on all societies throughout history? Praise God** for the wonderful church family at Westminster, Colo., RPC that includes people from a variety of backgrounds; **pray** that God would continue to unite them in Christ. **Pray** for Cullybackey (Northern Ireland) RPC and its youth ministry.

Saturday: **What makes something a good deed that should be remembered wherever the gospel is preached?** **Pray** with Geneva College that its students will be well equipped to make a meaningful impact for the kingdom of heaven in their career, community, and life. **Pray** for the service at Atlanta RPC tomorrow.

Atlanta

Reformed

Presbyterian

Church

The Lord’s Day

May 22, 2022

Meeting every week at

574 Western Avenue

(corner of Western and Walnut Street)

Atlanta, Georgia

Worship at 3:30 PM

Pastor Frank J. Smith, Ph.D., D.D.

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https://atlanta-rpc.org

(770)241-3946

Proclaiming the Kingship of Jesus Christ

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions

The Call to Worship Isaiah 55:1

*The Invocation

*Psalm 99C “The Lord is King Indeed! Let Peoples Quail and Fear!”

Scripture Reading I Corinthians 5

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 69B “O God, My Foolishness and Sins”

Scripture Text Ezekiel 43

The Sermon “Fencing of the Table”

*Prayer

*Psalm 69C [tune: Agawam] “But in a Time Accepted, Lord”

The Administration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

*Psalm 118C [stanzas 14-17] “This Is the Day the Lord Has Made”

*Benediction

*Psalm 4B [stanzas 3-4]

“May You Sacrifice Now Sacrifices Just”

** Congregation will please stand.*

We are so glad that you could join us today! Please be sure to return next week and bring a friend.

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions & Answers

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,’ says the Lord, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’”—Revelation 1:8. “And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’”—Mark 14:22. “Thanks be unto God for His indescribable gift!”—II Corinthians 9:15.

Q. 3 *What do the Scriptures principally teach?* A. The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

Q. 4 *What is God?* A. God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Q. 5. *Are there more Gods than one?* A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

Q. 6. *How many persons are there in the Godhead?* A. There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

For your convenience, a tithe box is located at the back.

Ezekiel 43; I Corinthians 5

Theme: The Lord instructs His church to protect the Lord’s Table from unworthy participation in it.

I. What is Meant by Fencing of the Table?

A. Fencing of the table entails proper instruction

1. Instruction in holy things is what we find in Ezekiel 43
2. Proper instruction is what we find also in I Corinthians 11

B. Fencing of the table entails proper warning

1. In Ezekiel 43, there was concern for holiness
2. In I Corinthians, concern for not defiling the Lord’s table
 - a. Chapter 5—horrible instance of fornication; etc.
 - b. Chapter 10—don’t participate in false worship
 - c. Chapter 11—warning regarding partaking of Lord’s Supper
3. In other ordinances, there was concern for holiness

C. Fencing means proper prohibition of those who should not partake

1. Matthew 18 teaches this regarding church discipline
2. I Corinthians 5 tells us don’t even eat with such a person

3. Ezekiel 44: “keepers of the charge of the house”
4. I Chronicles 26:1-19: porters [gatekeepers]
5. Nehemiah 7:64-65: the Tirshatha protected holy food

D. Fencing of the table entails proper invitation—there’s a gate!

II. Why Do We Fence the Table?

- A. Because the Lord has commanded us to do so
- B. Because we want to demonstrate our love for others
- C. Because we seek to uphold the holiness of the church and worship

D. Because we celebrate the unity of the church

III. How is Fencing of the Table Done?

- A. Instruction in the ordinances
- B. Verbal warning—faith and repentance
- C. Exercising the keys of the kingdom
- D. Welcoming those who should come