

Holy Thursday and the Beginning of Good Friday

Text: Matthew 26:17-46 NAS 2020

Join Us: **Good Fr 11 & 7; Holy Sa 4; Resurrection 9**

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: On Palm Sunday we skimmed over Sunday through Wednesday of Holy Week. These sections summarize today's journey:

- Daylight on Thursday – *the Passover was prepared.*
- After sundown – *they ate the Passover meal and Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper.*
- Late in the evening – *they went to the Mount of Olives.*

1. **Holy Thursday: 26:17-19 – Passover Preparation:** ¹⁷ Now on the first *day* of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸ And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is near; I am keeping the Passover at your house with My disciples.'"" ¹⁹ The disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

- a. First Day of Unleavened Bread: Technically, the Passover feast was one day, then the feast of Unleavened Bread followed immediately after for seven more days (see [Leviticus 23:5-6](#)).

- b. Passover Preparation: It included ✦the sacrifice of an unblemished lamb, ✦unleavened bread, ✦bitter herbs, and ✦wine – *and all was prepared before sundown.*

2. **Good Friday** (Matthew 26:20 – 27:61):

a. Understanding the Days:

- i. For us – *who follow Roman time*, the Passover meal was eaten on Thursday evening.
- ii. For Jews – *who follow Jewish time*, their day begins at sunset. Therefore, the eating of the Passover meal and all the other events of that evening took place on Good Friday.
- iii. One day – **From** the eating of the Passover meal **to** the burial of Jesus' body, *it all happened on Good Friday.* Now we can better understand Zechariah 3:9 **"I will remove the guilt of that land in one day."**

- b. **26:20-25 – The Last Passover:** ²⁰ Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining *at the table* with the twelve. ²¹ And as they were eating, He said, **"Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me."** ²² Being deeply grieved, they began saying to Him, each one: "Surely it is not I, Lord?" ²³ And He answered, **"He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me."** ²⁴ The Son of Man is going away just as it is written about Him; but **woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born [if he had never existed]."** ²⁵ And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" Jesus said to him, **"You have said it yourself [a common Jewish affirmation]."**

c. **26:26-35 – The Lord’s Supper Instituted:** ²⁶ Now while they were eating, Jesus took *some* [unleavened] bread, and after a blessing, He broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, “**Take, eat; this is My body** [see [1 Cor. 10:16](#)].” ²⁷ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, “**Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸ for this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.** ²⁹ But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it with you, new, in My Father’s kingdom [Jesus told His disciples He would die that very day].” ³⁰ And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives [to the location of the Garden of Gethsemane].

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, “**You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I WILL STRIKE THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK WILL BE SCATTERED.’** ³² But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” ³³ But Peter replied to Him, “**Even if they all fall away because of You, I will never fall away!**” ³⁴ Jesus said to him, “**Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.**” ³⁵ Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” All the disciples said the same thing as well [see [1 Cor. 10:12](#)].

d. **26:36-46 – The Garden of Gethsemane:** ³⁶ Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane [possibly around midnight], and told His disciples, “**Sit here while I go over there and pray.**” ³⁷ And He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee [James and John] with Him, and began to be grieved and distressed. ³⁸ Then He said to them, “**My soul is deeply grieved,**

to the point of death [*Jesus knew He would die very soon*];
remain here and keep watch with Me [*the watching would bring slight comfort to Jesus, but they slept*].”

³⁹ And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, **“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”** ⁴⁰ And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and He said to Peter, **“So, you *men* could not keep watch with Me for one hour? ⁴¹ Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”** // Let us pray for ▶ **God’s will** and ▶ **our acceptance!**

⁴² He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, **“My Father, if this *cup* cannot pass away unless I drink from it, Your will be done.”** ⁴³ Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more [*Jesus’ triple-checked with His Father*]. ⁴⁵ Then He came to the disciples and said to them, **“Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners** [*present participle: it’s happening as I speak*]. ⁴⁶ **Get up, let’s go; behold, the one who is betraying Me is near!”**

Conclusion: Join us on Good Friday for Jesus’ arrest, trials, crucifixion, death, and burial.

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, may our lives be a TY note to You!

Website: www.BLC7500.com; **YouTube** and **Podcast:** “Benefit from the Bible”
Facebook: “Bethlehem Parma” / **Pastor:** RevRLGreen@aol.com; 440-292-5915
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230