

matthew experiencing the presence of the Kingdom

----> **connect...** Meditate on Isaiah 53 all week. Take a few verses per day and plant them in your mind thinking about them all day. Start with Isaiah 53:1-3.

----> **discover...** Jesus finishes His discourse on the Mount of Olives and gets alone with His disciples. Read Matthew 26:1-5.

1. What does He tell them in Matthew 26:1-2? _____

2. What other meeting is going on? (vv. 3-5) What are they planning? _____

(We've already studied verses 6-13 in Lesson 12 on Day 4)

3. Read Matthew 26:14-16. What does Judas Iscariot ask the chief priests? _____

Note: None of the gospels explain what motivated Judas' treacherous move. We can speculate and ask difficult questions such as "did Judas have a choice?" However, no one can fully answer questions that aren't clearly defined in Scripture. This is one of those mysteries that will be fully understood when we see God face to face.

4. Read Matthew 26:17-29. What preparations needed to be made? _____

5. Read verses 20-25. What did Jesus say during this Passover meal (v. 21)? _____

a. How did the disciples respond? _____

b. Did Judas already know he was "the one" (v. 16)? _____

c. How does Jesus identify "the one?" _____

d. What does Judas ask? And Jesus' answer? _____

e. Can you imagine that moment? Any comments? _____

6. Jesus keeps His focus. He still has work to do with His disciples. Read verses 26-30. What does He say about the bread? _____

a. And the cup? _____

b. The "Last Supper" was the "first communion." Why do we observe communion today according to 1 Corinthians 10:16-17? _____

c. What should precede communion for us (see 1 Corinthians 11:27-28)? _____

d. How might we use Psalm 139:23-24 in preparation for communion? _____

----> **consider...** Think of the intimacy Jesus is inviting here, to be partakers in His most sacred act. When you take communion, is your heart prepared? Do you grasp the grace it symbolizes?

----> **apply...** Begin memorizing Isaiah 53:5.



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----> **connect...** Isaiah 53:4-6.

----> **discover...** Think about all Jesus has been through with His disciples. Record some of the highlights in the space provided (skim through the book of Matthew): _____

1. Read Matthew 26:31-35. They have just finished the Passover meal and now the time draws near. What does Jesus tell His disciples will happen (v.31)? _____

a. What prophecy does He quote from Zechariah 13:7 (Matt. 26:31)? _____

b. What does He point out in verse 32? _____

c. What is Peter's response? _____

d. What does Jesus tell him? _____

e. What does Peter promise? And the other disciples? _____

f. Do you find it interesting that Jesus knew this about Peter, but didn't try to stop him? What do you learn about your King from this encounter? _____

2. Read Matthew 26:36-46 slowly. Where did Jesus take His disciples? _____

3. Unlike martyrs who face death with the strength of God, Jesus was facing death completely alone, knowing that He was to be the wrath-averting Passover lamb. Has Jesus shown much anguish over His death up to this point? How deep was His sorrow (v. 38)? _____

b. What does He ask of Peter, James and John? _____

c. The cup refers not only to suffering and death, but in the Old Testament it often refers to God's wrath. What did He pray in verse 39? _____

d. What does He ask the sleeping disciples? _____

e. How does He warn them (v. 41)? _____

f. How many times did Jesus pray this prayer of anguish? What did He resign Himself to in prayer (v. 42)? _____

g. What do you learn about your King from this prayer? _____

----> **consider...** Take a few moments and absorb the intensity of these hours for Jesus. Why did He suffer so? Do you remember in Matthew 4 when the angels came and attended Him after He suffered in the desert? He's alone now. He's walking in obedience out of love for the Father and trust in His perfect plan. How do you feel about your King?

----> **apply...** Record some thoughts in your journal. Keep memorizing Isaiah 53:5.

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----> **connect**... Isaiah 53:7-9.

----> **discover**... Jesus returns from talking to His Father to find His disciples still asleep. Read Matthew 26:45-46.

1. What words do they hear as they are awakened? _____

2. Read Matthew 26:47-56. How did Judas betray Jesus? _____
 - a. Did Jesus resist? _____
 - b. Luke tells us that Peter drew his sword and Jesus immediately healed the man's ear (Luke 22:47-53). What does He say to Peter and what fact does He make about available help (vv. 52-53)? _____

 - c. What was Jesus focused on (vv. 54, 56)? _____

 - d. What does Jesus point out to the crowd in verses 55-56? _____

 - e. Does He seem in anguish at this point? What does this teach you about prayer (vv. 36-46)? _____

3. We will see Jesus go through two trials (religious and civil). His first trial is before the Sanhedrin (the high court of the Jews). There were about 71 people involved. Although the Sanhedrin were given a lot of authority by the Roman jurisdiction, they could not impose capital punishment. Keep in mind this is now the wee hours of the morning. It was against Jewish law to hold a trial after dark. Many more of their own laws were broken in order to proceed with this trial.
 - a. Where did they take Jesus? _____
 - b. Did His disciples follow Him there (vv. 56, 58)? _____
 - c. What were the accusers looking for (v. 59)? _____
 - d. What testimony was brought against Him (vv. 60-62)? _____

 - e. What was Jesus' response? What does Isaiah 53:7 say? _____

 - f. What direct question does the high priest pose? _____

 - g. Jesus' response: _____

 - h. What happened next? _____

 - i. What did the religious leaders do then (vv. 67-68)? _____

 - j. What was His crime? _____

----> **consider**... Did Jesus say He was a prophet? A good teacher? What did He say? How do you feel when you read about this trial? Express your feelings to your King.

----> **apply**... Write down what you want to remember in your journal from your lesson today. Keep memorizing Isaiah 53:5.

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----> connect... Isaiah 53:10.

----> discover... Read Matthew 26:69-75. What had Peter just witnessed? (v. 58)

1. Describe the settings for Peter's three denials:

Denial #1: _____

Denial #2: _____

Denial #3: _____

2. What did Peter remember when the rooster crowed? _____

3. Let's speed ahead to what takes place with Peter after the resurrection. In Luke 24:9-12 some women come and tell the disciples about the empty tomb. What does Peter do? _____

4. Jesus shares a meal with the eleven after His resurrection. Read about His conversation with Peter in John 21:15-19. How do you think Peter was feeling about himself and his "usefulness" to the Lord since his denials? _____

a. Does Jesus feel he is useless? What assignment does He give him? _____

b. Who is it that prepares us to serve? Why? (See Philippians 2:13.) _____

c. What question does He ask Peter three times? _____

d. What seems to be the condition for being qualified to serve God? _____

5. How does the story of Peter encourage you? _____

a. Does failure disqualify us from serving God? _____

b. Who can restore us? _____

c. What restored Peter? _____

d. Did Peter now have a choice to obey or not? _____

e. What did Jesus draw Peter's attention to three times? _____

f. What does 1 John 2:5 say? _____

----> consider... Our love for Jesus generates obedience to His word—and obedience to His Word completes His love in us. Peter's love was tested and he failed—it was tested again and he passed. Can you relate to Peter? Jesus commanded him again to "follow me!" If you've failed, don't avoid facing your King. Restore that fellowship through confession (1 John 1:9) and recommit yourself to follow.

----> apply... Continue memorizing Isaiah 53:5.

