

## Matthew 26:1-5 Plans for the Death of Jesus

Introduction: Jesus holds three offices: Prophet, Priest, and King. Up to this time He has served only as Prophet. By His preaching and teaching He demonstrated His superior knowledge. By His miracles He demonstrated that He was from God. Soon He would serve as Priest and offer a sacrifice for the sins of man. He will offer His own life; He will offer His own blood. In our text we see that both God and man has made plans for His death.

### I. The plan as revealed to the disciples by Jesus, verses 1-2.

- A. He said, “Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover.”
  - 1. They knew – as all Jews knew.
  - 2. As all Americans would know when it is two days till Christmas.
- B. He said – the Son of man will be betrayed to be killed.
  - 1. They knew that He would be betrayed.
  - 2. They knew that He would be killed.
  - 3. He Himself had repeatedly warned them.
- C. He said – He would be crucified.
  - 1. This they did not know; He had not forewarned them of this.
  - 2. It was hard enough for them to learn that He would be killed; it would have been too hard for them to hear that His death would be by crucifixion.
- D. Now they needed to be informed lest the shock be too much for them when the crucifixion did come.
- E. The crucifixion would take place on the Day of Passover. They did not know that either.
  - 1. The Passover had started in Egypt; it commemorated their deliverance from Egypt.
  - 2. A lamb was slain by each family, the blood sprinkled on the door posts, and the lamb roasted and eaten. The Israelites were passed over by the death angel and delivered from bondage in Egypt.
  - 3. The Passover was to be observed annually.
  - 4. The Passover lamb represented Jesus Christ; the killing of the Passover lamb represented the death of Jesus Christ.
  - 5. It was fitting that He would be crucified on the day of the Passover; the day that the Passover lamb would be slain.

### II. The plot made in secret by the Jews, verses 3-4.

- A. The Jewish leaders met at the palace grounds of the high priest to plot the death of Jesus.
  - 1. Knowing nothing of the plans of God, they laid their own plans.
  - 2. They were desperate to put Him to death.
- B. Of all places, they met in the court of the palace of the high priest.
  - 1. They could not have met here without his knowledge and participation.
  - 2. Indeed he must have called the meeting.
- C. Of all people, it was the highest religious leaders of the land who were plotting this murder. (They all agreed; Jesus must go.)
- D. Decided that He must be taken by subtility.
  - 1. The reason was that they feared the masses of people with whom Jesus was so popular. (Many believed Him to be a prophet of God; many believed Him to be the Messiah.)
  - 2. They did not wish to alienate these people.
  - 3. This also accounted for them meeting in secret.
  - 4. They would also want the death of Jesus to be done in secret.

III. The conflicts in the plan, verses 4-5.

- A. God the Father had planned for the death to be by crucifixion.
  - 1. This would mean a public execution – open to all the public.
  - 2. The Jewish leaders feared the public and preferred to subtly and thus quietly take Him and kill Him, verse 4.
- B. God the Father planned for the crucifixion to be on the Day of the Passover.
  - 1. The Jews definitely did not want it on the Passover, verse 5.
  - 2. There would be about two million people in town on the Passover with whom Jesus was very popular. (They could tear the city to shreds.)
- C. God would win the conflict.
  - 1. Jesus said it would be on the Passover and it was.
  - 2. Jesus was not caught up in some uncontrollable circumstances.
  - 3. He was not a helpless victim in the hand of men mightier than He.
  - 4. He was the High Priest of God presenting an offering for the sins of man.
  - 5. The blood that He presented was the only blood in the whole world that could take away sin.
  - 6. The result – all who will repent and trust in Him shall be saved.

Conclusion: Have you ever trusted in Jesus to save your soul?

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