

Matthew Lesson 26

Yeshua now begins the climactic days of His first coming. To come a second time as Messiah ben David and rule as King on earth, Yeshua first has to suffer as Messiah ben Joseph to bring redemption. With every heartbeat, the execution stake grows closer, and Passover is at hand.

Matthew 26:1-5 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples, **You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.** Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him. But they said, Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.

** Who were the ones that wanted to kill Yeshua?

** Why didn't they want this done during the feast?

Not only were these leaders fearful of the people's reaction, but they did not want more trouble with Rome.

*How can we take comfort in knowing though they were powerful, their plans did not prevail?

Prior to Passover, a woman comes to Yeshua.

Matthew 26:6-13 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, 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. But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, Why this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor. 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. For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. 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.**



In this scene we see a group of confused disciples and even a bit indignant, as they had obviously taken the teaching of Yeshua seriously and were concerned that this costly oil should have been sold and used to help the poor.

The question arises --- how costly was this oil? In John's gospel, we are told that it is about 300 denari - equaling almost a year's wages!

So it was very costly, and we understand the concern of the disciples.

Then Yeshua adds a whole new dimension to this conversation. He says, this woman has done a mitzvah for Me. In pouring this very expensive oil over His feet, she is preparing Him for His burial.

She was anointing the anointed One (Messiah) with oil. Oil that had been crushed from the olive. Messiah was about to be crushed - His blood spilled out to redeem us from our sins.

And He accents her mitzvah saying that it will always be spoken of wherever the gospel is told, and here we are today fulfilling His words!

Matthew 26:14-16 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

Imagine all that is going on. Judas leaves the group and goes to the chief priests to offer his services. They agree to pay him 30 pieces of silver, fulfilling the prophecy in Zechariah saying:

Zechariah 11:11-13 It was revoked on that day, and so the afflicted of the flock who were watching me knew that it was the word of the LORD. Then I told them, "If it seems right to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." So they weighed out my wages, thirty pieces of silver. **13**And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—this magnificent price at which they valued me. So I took

the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD....

And now we go back to the group and prepare for the seder meal with Yeshua, and He will address Judas at this meal.

Matthew 26:17-26 Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, Where do you want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover? And He said, **Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, The Teacher says, My time is at hand I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.** (Imagine that at the Passover table the story of the Redemption of Israel from Egypt was told, including the part with the Passover lamb, and they are sitting with The Passover Lamb!) So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. Now as they were eating, He said, **Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.** And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him Lord, is it I? He answered and said, **He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of 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,** Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, Rabbi, it is I? He said to him, **You have said it.**

Something very interesting is the root of Judas' name which is yood - hand. Yeshua was specific in pointing out - He who dipped His **hand** with Me in the dish will betray Me. woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!



When Yeshua used the word "woe," it is as though He is pronouncing judgment as those taking place in Revelation. Woe can be describing impending doom.

This connects back to **Genesis 4:11** And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

Does this not describe what Judas had done? And

Psalm 41:9 Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.

Describes this scene.

And now Yeshua describes more betrayal coming....

Matthew 26:31-35 Then Jesus told them, **This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered. But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.**

Peter replied, Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will. Truly I tell you,"

Jesus answered, **this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me**

three times. But Peter declared, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the other disciples said the same.

****What do we learn from the above verses about our own strength to stay faithful to the Lord? Peter never dreamed he would deny Him.**

It is astounding to realize that even the betrayal of Peter and the others is fulfilling prophecy as we are told in

Zechariah 13:7Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, against the man who is My Companion, declares the LORD of Hosts. Strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn My hand against the little ones.

"little ones - the ones who are becoming significant - they are not understanding - they will become significant - tzadi, ayin, resh - tzaar - You see a process unfolding for the disciples.

****When you feel that you are in a battle of some kind and you are losing, how would Yeshua's words, "after I have risen," help you? How does the resurrection affect us?**

And now He marches to the garden of Gethsemane.

Matthew 26:36-39 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be

sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Incredibly, though Yeshua's sadness has put Him at the point of death, His greatest desire is to do the will of His Father, and He knows this is death. What does it take to get this kind of willingness to die to do G-d's will?

What cup is Yeshua referring to?

Isaiah 51:17 Awake, awake! Stand up, O Jerusalem. You who have drunk at the hand of the LORD the cup of His fury; You have drunk the dregs of the cup of trembling, and drained it out.

The "dregs" are the sludge of waste that sinks to the bottom of the cup.

Psalm 75:8,10 For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; It is full mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its _ shall all the wicked of the earth drain and drink down. .All the horns of the wicked I will also cut off. But the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

On that execution stake Yeshua is going to take on Himself the worst of sins - the sludge and the waste that would be thrown out. He is the One who is praying "If this cup can be removed from Me....."

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

And three times Yeshua returns to find the disciples sleeping when they are suppose to be praying , and He asks if they could not watch with Him for one hour?

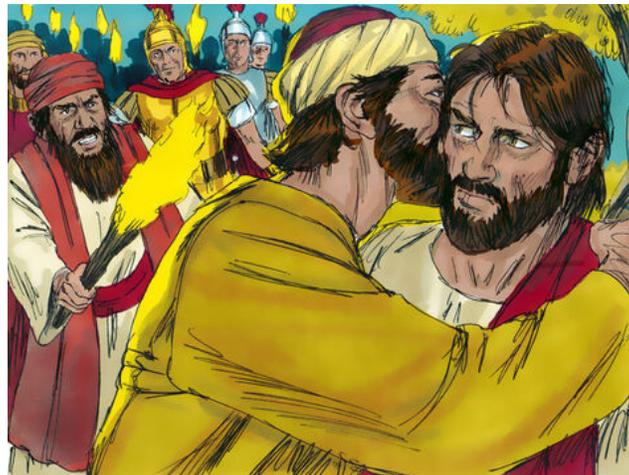
And finally He says:

Matthew 26:45 Then He came to His 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. Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayed is at hand.**

Notice all the times "hand" is used - and remember the root of Judas' name is hand. Also He is telling what is going to happen - showing He is G-d.

Matthew 26:47-56 And even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests and elders of the people. The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: "You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss." So Judas came straight to Jesus. "Greetings, Rabbi!" he exclaimed and gave him the kiss. Jesus said, "My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for." Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him. But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the high priest's slave, slashing off his ear. "Put away your sword," Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will die by the sword. Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?" Then Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I some dangerous revolutionary, that you come with swords and clubs to arrest me? Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple? I was there teaching every day. But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures." At that point, all the disciples deserted him and fled.

This is all happening in the place called Gethsemane, meaning oil press. Yeshua is being pressed on all sides. He's betrayed, His disciples all fall asleep, they don't even stay awake to pray and watch with Him, He is overwhelmed to the point of death, then they all flee when He is arrested. No one is supporting Him.



Again we are reminded of Zechariah 13:7 "Awake, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!" declares the LORD Almighty. "Strike the

shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn my hand against the little ones.

And now we turn to the legal trial of the Messiah.

Matthew 26:57-68 And those who had laid hold of Jesus led *Him* away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. But Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard. And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end. Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, ⁶⁰but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward and said, "This *fellow* said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'" And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What *is it* these men testify against You?" But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!" Jesus said to him, "*It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.*" Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?" They answered and said, "He is deserving of death." Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck *Him* with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"



Yeshua will endure two distinct trials - one from the Jewish authorities, which we just read about, and the next will be by the Romans. One important thing to keep in mind is that when Rome ruled a place, they took over the decisions as to whether

one would receive the death penalty or not. the Jewish authorities did not have the prerogative of carrying out a death penalty. Even though the Jewish authorities cried out for "death," they were in no position to follow through with this sentence. Also, this "trial" did not follow the established procedures for a true trial for capital offenses which we read in Tractate Sanhedrin 4:1 - "They hold the trial during the daytime and the verdict must also be reached during the daytime. A verdict of acquittal may be reached on the same day, but a verdict of conviction not until the following day. Therefore trials may not be held on the eve of the Sabbath or on the eve of a Festival day."

Obvioulsy ,this is being conducted at night, and the following day is Passover. Nothing is legal about this trial. Not to mention, they wanted to bring in false witnesses.

When the high priest demanded an answer from Yeshua we again see the word "hand" being used as He says, You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on clouds of heaven.

The right hand denotes power and strength and honor. Yeshua is telling them that he will be sitting in the most honored seats of power and next to G-d Most High. This is why they were so upset, calling what He said, blasphemy.

And things got out of control

Matthew 26:67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him and others struck Him with the palms of their hands., saying, Prophecy to us, Christ! (Messiah) Who is the one who struck You?

Again we see the circumstances and Yeshua's reactions to those circumstances fulfilling prophesy:

Isaiah 50:5,6 The Lord GOD has opened My ears, and I have not been rebellious, nor have I turned back. I offered My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who tore out My beard. I did not hide My face from scorn and spittle....

And then Yeshua is handed over to Pontius Pilate and the Roman trial begins.

Matthew 27:1,2,11-14 When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people conspired against Jesus to put Him to death. They bound Him, led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate the governor....

Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "You have said so," Jesus replied. When he was accused by

the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

Interestingly, Pilate had a reputation for being extremely wicked and having an iron fist. The historian, Josephus, gives the following account in which his extreme wickedness and iron fist are shown as he writes: Pilate once pilfered funds from the Jerusalem Temple treasury in order to fund one of his aqueduct projects. When there was a strong protest against this injustice Pilate ordered hundreds of his troops to dress as civilians and infiltrate the Jewish crowd. Hidden under their garb were clubs and when the signal was given many Jews were brutally beaten to death. (cf. Antiquities 18:55-62)

Acts 4:27 gives a few details: For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

The trial before Pilate:

Matthew 27:11-26 Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "You have said so," Jesus replied. When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor. Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him." But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his

hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabas to them, but he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

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Also amazing to note the meaning of Barabbas' name:

Bar - is the Aramaic word for son

Abbas - Abba is both Aramaic and Hebrew for father or daddy

Abbas - Father Washing my hands in the restroom, I overheard an exchange between a Jewish father and his son. You should know that they both knew English *and Hebrew*. The father said to his son (in English), "When I ask you to do something, I want you to call me *Abba*."

Hearing this, I was surprised by three things:

1. That he was speaking in English and Hebrew in the same breath.
2. That he was using an everyday experience for child training (good for him!).
3. The real meaning of *Abba* is not what I had been taught.

Most people think *Abba* means "Daddy," but that's not quite right.

"Daddy" doesn't have the bite of *Abba*.

It's personal, which is part of the meaning, but that's not the whole story.

Abba doesn't mean "Daddy."

Abba doesn't mean "Dad."

Abba means "Father, I will obey you." (HIM Publications)

In Barabbas' name we find this meaning:

This is the son that obeys the father.

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will
but to do the will of him who sent me.

**What does this mean to those of us sitting in this study?