

The Parable Of The Ten Virgins

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and

trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." -Matthew 25:1-13



HOW CAN YOU BE READY? YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN.

Jesus said, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* - John 3:3

Jesus came and died to pay for your sins. Forgiveness of sins and eternal life are given to us by faith in Jesus. He said that He will come and get us to be with Him (John 14: 1-3). In this parable, Jesus is the bridegroom. We need to be ready like the five wise virgins. You must be born again.

NOT EVERYONE WHO SAYS, 'LORD, LORD,' SHALL ENTER THE KINGDOM.

Jesus said, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"* - Matthew 7:21-23

Notice that all of the virgins were waiting for the bridegroom, all slept, all had lamps. But five did not have enough oil and their lamps were going out. Those without the oil looked like Christians, and they were even waiting for the bridegroom! But they were not born again. Many people go to church every Sunday, but they do not know Jesus. Be sure you are born again. Have you ever asked Jesus into your heart? Do you know you're a sinner who needs Jesus to pay for your sins? We need Him!

Matthew

Chapter 25:1-13

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 25:1. What does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven with in vs. 1?
2. Read Matt. 25:2-4. How did the ten virgins differ from one another?
3. Read Matt. 25:5. How did the ten virgins spend the night awaiting the bridegroom?
4. Read Matt. 25:6. How did the ten virgins know that the bridegroom had arrived?
5. Read Matt. 25:7. Explain what 'trimmed their lamps' means.
6. Read Matt. 25:8-9. Why did the five foolish virgins not have oil? (See vs. 3.)
7. Read Matt. 25:10. How did the five foolish virgins miss the arrival of the bridegroom?
8. Read Matt. 25:10-13. What is the significance of the shut door?
9. Read Matt. 25:12. What penalty did the five foolish virgins suffer for not being prepared for the bridegroom?

Memory Verse

"Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Matthew 24:44 (NKJV)

The Parable Of The Talents; Are You Faithful To Use What God Gave To You?

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.


Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'


Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" - Matthew 25:14-30

KIDS IN POOR COUNTRIES CAN KNOW ABOUT JESUS IF I USE MY SEWING SKILLS, THAT GOD GAVE ME, TO MAKE THEM CLOTHES!



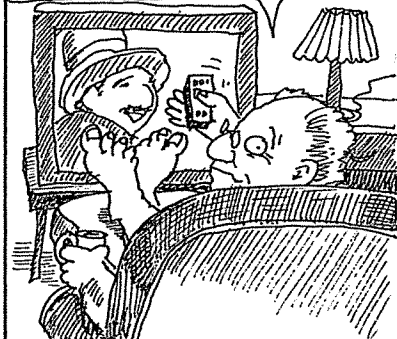
This servant used the talents that she was given to make more talents. She invested her lord's wealth and received double on her lord's investment. Has God given you money, time, energy, health or abilities? Then you should invest these things in the kingdom of heaven. What can you do to give back to the Lord? Pray about what you can do! Be faithful and serve God with all that He has given you!

THE LORD GAVE ME ARTISTIC SKILL, AND BY HIS HELP, I CAN DESIGN TRACTS TO SHARE HIS GOSPEL WITH LOTS OF PEOPLE.



This servant also used the talents that he was given to make more talents. He invested his lord's wealth and doubled his lord's investment. He also was a faithful servant. We must learn to number our days. We may live a long life, but maybe not! Whatever God has enabled you to do, be a faithful servant and serve Him today. He may return tomorrow and want to see how his investment has grown!

AH, THE LORD REAPS WHERE HE HASN'T SOWN - HE DOESN'T NEED MY HELP! I PROBABLY DON'T KNOW THE BIBLE WELL ENOUGH TO TEACH ANYWAY! I'LL JUST RELAX!



This servant didn't use or spend his lord's talents, but he also didn't do anything to increase them. He was not a faithful servant. He didn't understand his lord's character and said that his lord was a hard man who reaped where he hasn't sown! He could have at least invested the wealth with the bankers and received interest, but he was afraid and hid it in the ground. Do you know that God loves you?

Matthew

Chapter 25:14-30

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 25:14. What is Jesus comparing the kingdom of heaven to in vs. 1?

2. Read Matt. 25:15. On what basis did the man disperse his talents to the servants?

3. Read Matt. 25:16-18. Explain how each one of the servants handled the goods given to him.

4. Read Matt. 25:19-30. When the lord of the servants returned from his long journey, he called each one to account for his talents. Explain what each servant accomplished for his lord.
 - 1-

 - 2-

 - 3-

5. Read Matt. 25:19-30. How did the master respond to each of the servants' actions?
 - 1-

 - 2-

 - 3-

Memory Verse

"For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away."

Matthew 25:29 (NKJV)

After The Tribulation, Jesus Judges The Nations On How They Treated His Brethren, Israel

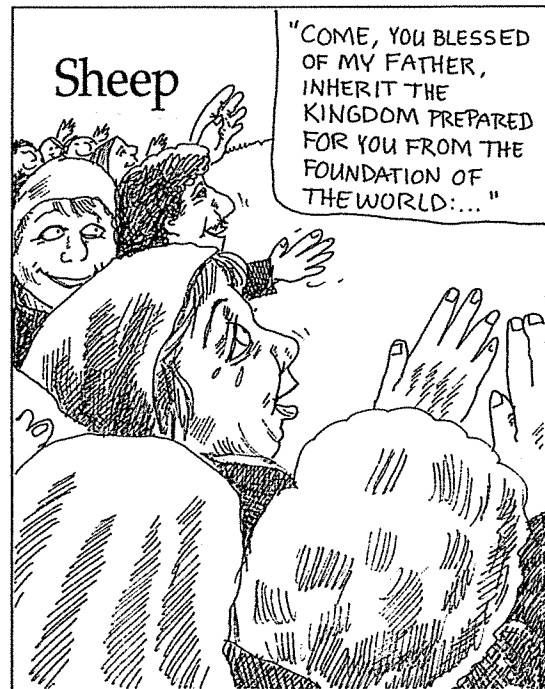
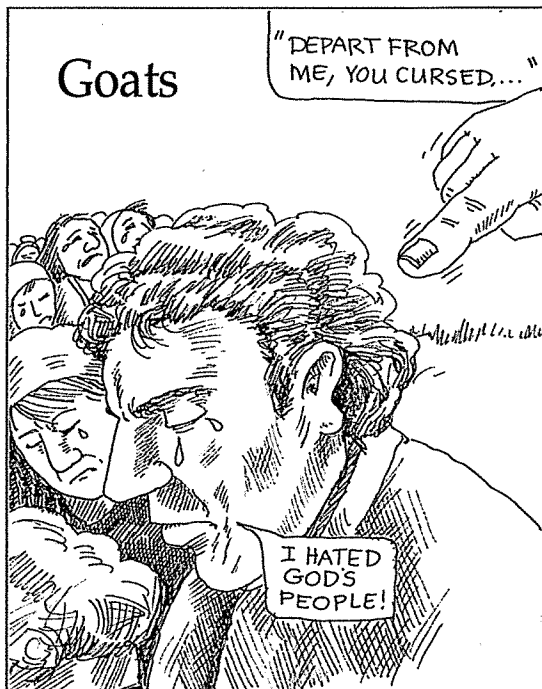
"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You as stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."



When the day of the Lord comes, at the end of the tribulation, Jesus will return to earth, and His feet will stand on the mount of Olives, and it shall split in two from east to west, making a very large valley (Zechariah 14:4). There will be multitudes in the valley of decision (Joel 3:14). The nations will be judged on how they treated the nation of Israel. God promised Abraham that He'd bless those who bless Abraham, and curse those who curse Abraham. See Genesis 12:3. Now, in this age of grace, we are not judged by our works, but by our relationship to Jesus. Now is the day of salvation. Are you born again?

Matthew

Chapter 25:31-46

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 25:31-32. Who will be gathered before the Son of Man for judgment?
2. Read Matt. 25:32-33. How will Jesus separate the nations for judging? What animals are used as a comparison? What is the significance?
3. Read Matt. 25:34-40. Explain how the people depicted as sheep reflected the love of Jesus. What was their reward?
4. Read Matt. 25:41-46. Explain the judgment handed down to the "goats." What was their sentence?

Memory Verse

"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"

Matthew 25:40 (NKJV)

Jesus; Our Passover Lamb

"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.'" -Matthew 26:1-5

Notice that the hearts of the chief priests, the scribes and the elders were prepared and ready for the time when Judas will come to them in the darkness of night and for thirty pieces of silver, he will betray Jesus.



THE JEWISH FEAST OF PASSOVER. READ EXODUS 12:1-28

The Feast of Passover was celebrated as a memorial to remind all of Israel about the Exodus from Egypt. The children of Israel lived in Egypt due to a very harsh famine. While there, they grew into a huge nation. God called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt because Pharaoh, the Egyptian king, had put them into slavery. God did many miracles on behalf of His people through Moses. Moses tried to persuade Pharaoh to let Israel go back to their homeland, but Pharaoh refused even though God sent many plagues upon the Egyptians. One of the last plagues that God sent, caused the death of all the Egyptian firstborn; both man and animals.

God told the Israelites some things to protect themselves from this last great plague: The Israelites were to take a male lamb without blemish on the tenth day of the month and keep it until the fourteenth day of that same month. Then it was to be killed by the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel at twilight. The blood was to be put on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where it was to be eaten. The lamb was to be eaten that night, roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs. None of it was to remain until morning. What did remain was to be burned up.

"And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover. For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord. Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance." - Exodus 12:11-14

When you're born again, God sees Jesus' blood on you because He was an unblemished Lamb Who died in your place. God will pass over you in the judgment. Your sins are washed away by His blood. The Passover is a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. He has paid for our forgiveness by His blood.

Matthew

Chapter 26:1-5

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 26:1. What are some of the 'sayings' that vs. 1 refers to?
2. Read Matt. 26:2. Do you think the disciples were paying attention when Jesus was telling them He would "be delivered up to be crucified" ?
3. Read Matt. 26:2. Explain briefly what the Feast of Passover represents. (See front of Lesson and Ex. 12:7-14.)
4. Read Matt. 26:3-4. Who were the enemies of Jesus that assembled at the palace of the high priest? What was the purpose of this meeting?
5. Read Matt. 26:5. Why did the government leaders want to delay killing Jesus? What feast is indicated here?



Jesus Christ, Our Passover Lamb, Anointed For His Death And Burial While At Bethany

"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.'"

- Matthew 26:6-13

This woman gave from her heart. She gave Jesus her best. We can be like the disciples and find fault with others and how they serve the Lord, but only God knows hearts. Serve the Lord with a pure heart, and keep your eyes on Him alone. He will be the One Who will say, *"Well done, good and faithful servant..."*

As we teach this lesson, we fulfill Jesus' prophecy about this woman. It is a memorial to her and a reminder to us. Be faithful to do what God has called you to do. There may not be a memorial to you here, but there are rewards waiting in heaven. Remember in your service to the Lord, that many will look at you and not agree with your service to Him.

Matthew

Chapter 26:6-13

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 26:6-7. What was Jesus doing when Mary (Lazarus' sister) anointed Jesus for burial?
2. Read Matt. 26:8-9. How did the disciples react to this 'intrusion'? What was their reasoning? (See John 12:4-6.)
3. Read Matt. 26:10-13. What statement did Jesus make concerning Mary's actions? (See Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:8-9; and John 12:1-8.) *

*Not to be confused with Mary Magdalene, Luke 7:36-39.

Memory Verse

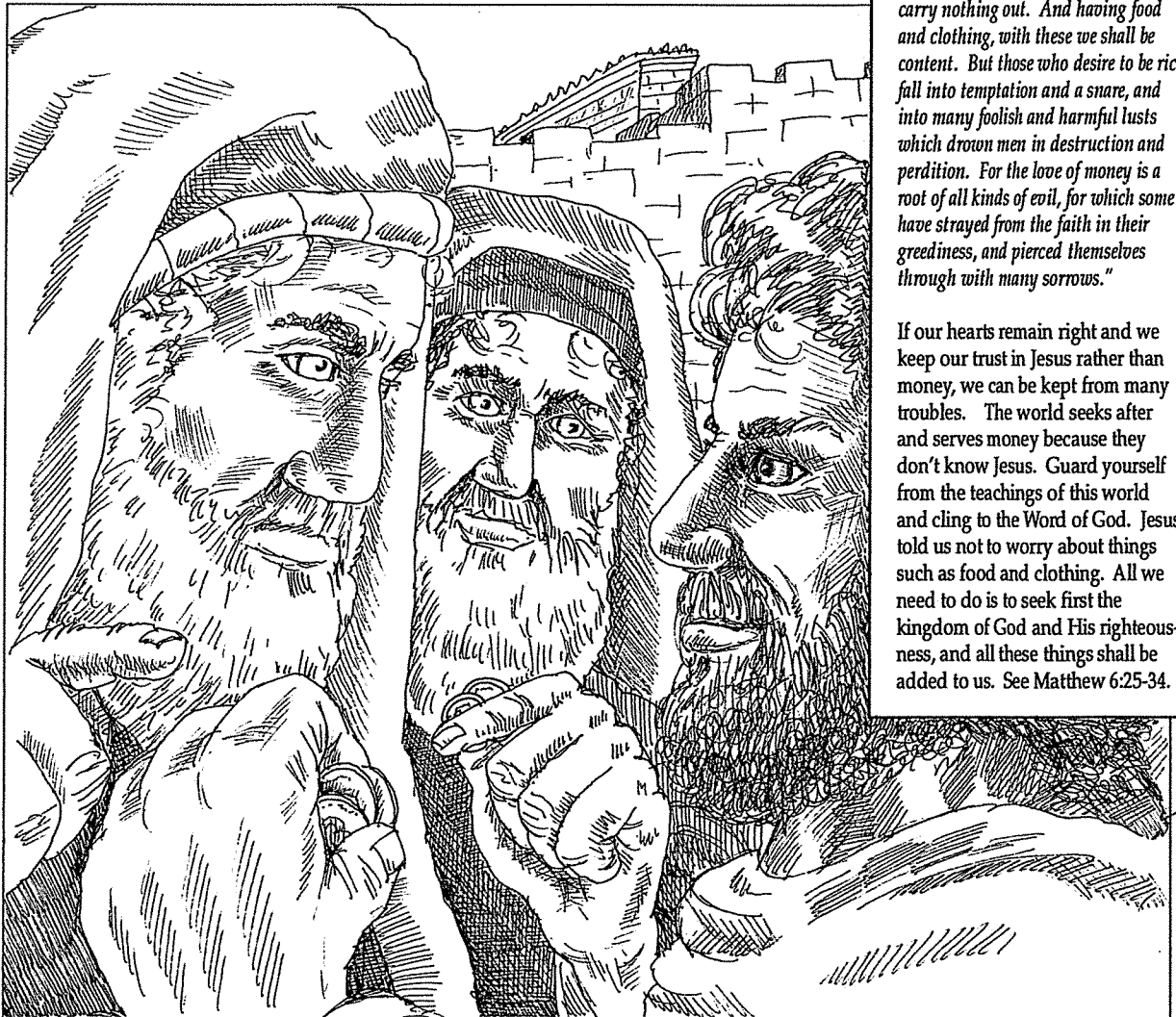
"For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always."

Matthew 26:11 (NKJV)

For The Love of Money, Judas Betrays Jesus

"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." -Matthew 26:14-16

Remember Matthew 26:1-5? The chief priests, scribes and elders were plotting for a way to kill Jesus, and Judas became the one who was willing to help them. Jesus, being God, knew that He would be betrayed and put to death. The Lord even told us in the Old Testament that He would be sold for thirty pieces of silver. "Then I said to them, 'If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain. So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.'" - Zechariah 11:12



REMEMBER THAT YOU
CANNOT SERVE TWO MASTERS

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."
- Matthew 6:24

1 Timothy 6:6-10 gives us some warning concerning greed and the love of money.

"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

If our hearts remain right and we keep our trust in Jesus rather than money, we can be kept from many troubles. The world seeks after and serves money because they don't know Jesus. Guard yourself from the teachings of this world and cling to the Word of God. Jesus told us not to worry about things such as food and clothing. All we need to do is to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to us. See Matthew 6:25-34.

 BEWARE OF LOVING YOURSELF AND MONEY IN THE LAST DAYS.

"But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"

- 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Matthew

Chapter 26:14-16

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matt. 26:14. Who did Judas Iscariot approach regarding his betrayal of Jesus?
2. Read 26:14. Did Jesus know that Judas Iscariot was a traitor when He accepted him as one of the 12 disciples? (See Matt. 26:21.)
3. Read Matt. 26:15. What was Judas paid to betray Jesus into the hands of the chief priests? (See front of lesson.)
4. Read Matt. 26:16. After receiving his "wages" what did Judas Iscariot do?

Memory Verse

"Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart."

Psalm 26:2 (NKJV)

Jesus Celebrates Passover With His Disciples And Judas Finds His Opportunity For Betrayal

"Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread (Passover) 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.'" ' 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, is it I?' He said to him, 'You have said it.'" -Matthew 26:17-25



Jesus knew Judas would betray Him, even from the beginning of their relationship. Jesus, being God, knows all things. Jesus loved him and counted him as one of the twelve, even knowing that Judas would betray Him. Jesus gave Judas many opportunities to repent. When Jesus announced that one of His disciples would betray Him, Judas could have asked Jesus for forgiveness and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests, scribes and elders, but he didn't. The Lord gave Judas another opportunity when He mentioned that the betrayal would be done by the one who dipped his hand in the dish with Jesus. But Judas didn't repent.

All the disciples called Jesus, 'Lord.' Judas called Him, 'Rabbi,' or Teacher. Jesus wasn't Lord in his life, but only a teacher. What is Jesus to you? Even now, the people who don't know Jesus as Lord will say that He was a good teacher. They mention His Name with Buddah, Mohammed, Plato, and other teachers. But what does the Bible call Jesus? "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His Name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." -Isaiah 9:6

Jesus Celebrates Passover with His Disciples And Judas Finds His Opportunity for Betrayal

Matthew 26:17-25

Vocabulary

1. lord- master of something and having absolute authority over it; also used as an honorary title of address, especially to superiors, equivalent to "mister" or "sir" when addressing someone respectfully
2. Lord- spoken of God as the Supreme Lord and Sovereign of the Universe; Jesus took on this title (Matt. 22:41-45) Himself. His purpose became clear after His resurrection. Thomas saw and touched the wounds of Jesus after His death and resurrection, and saw Jesus standing before him alive. Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" Since (except in Acts 10:4 and Revelation 7:14) there has been no record of Lord (kurios) ever again used by believers in addressing anyone except God and the Lord Jesus.
3. Rabbi- a Jewish title meaning "teacher"

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 26:17-19. What Jewish holiday were the disciples and Jesus preparing for?
b. What is the Passover? (Briefly review last week's lesson on the Passover, Matt. 26:1-5, front of handout or review Ex. 12:1-28.)
2. Read Matthew 26:14-16 from last week's lesson. What was Judas Iscariot seeking to do?
3. Read Matthew 26:19-25. Does Jesus know what Judas Iscariot is up to?
4. a. In verse 22, what were the disciples doing? (Ps. 26:2; II Cor. 13:5-6)
b. In verse 25, do you think that this is what Judas Iscariot was doing? Why or why not? (See front of handout.)
5. a. The other disciples called Jesus "Lord," but Judas Iscariot called Him, "Rabbi." What is the difference?
b. What do you call Jesus?

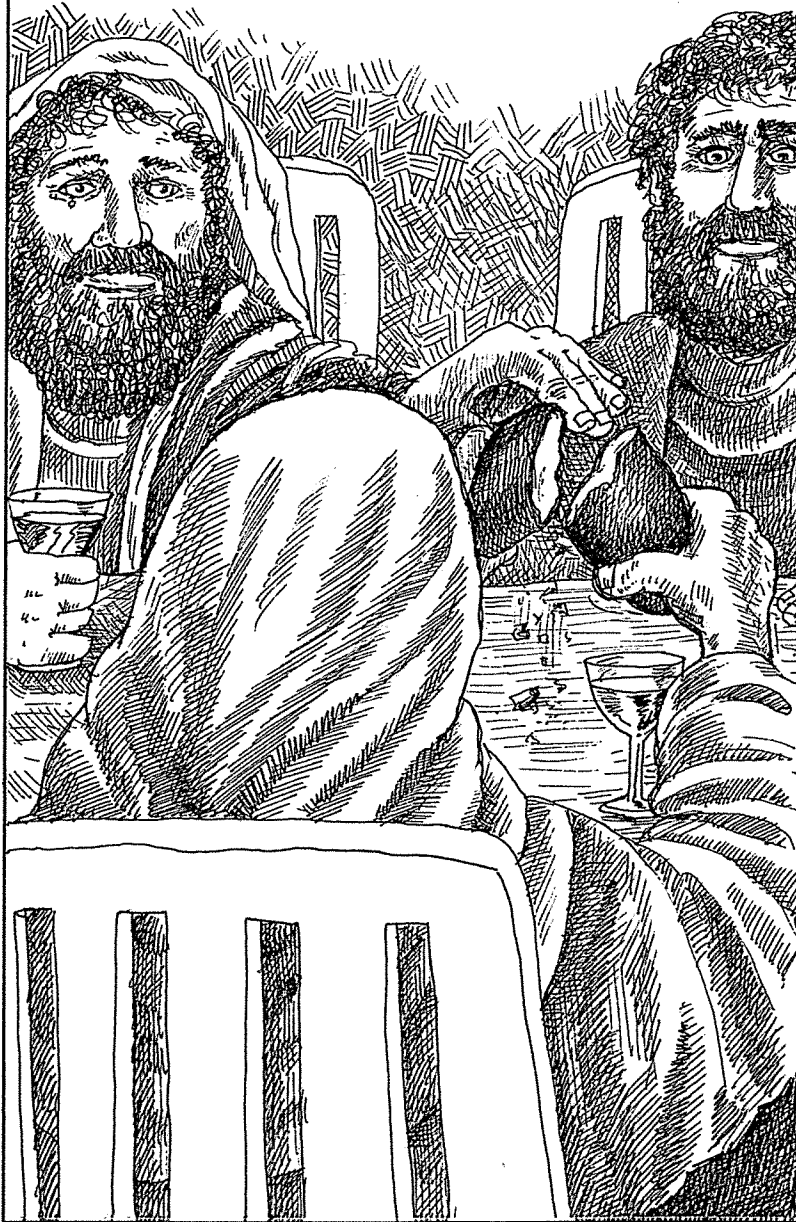
Memory Verse

"Examine me, O Lord, and prove (test) me; Try my mind and my heart."
Psalm 26:2 (NKJV)

Apply Within For Kids - Matthew 26:26-30

The Lord's Supper

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.' The He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 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 new with you in My Father's kingdom.' And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives." - Matthew 26:26-30



THE LORD'S SUPPER IS TO BE DONE IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIM.
See 1 Corinthians 11:24&25.

The bread and juice are not magical, nor are they transformed by a special ritual into the real body and blood of the Lord. But the bread and the juice are symbols of what Jesus already did when His body was broken and His blood shed for us in payment for our sins. You must be born again to be a partaker of The Lord's Supper.

JESUS, THE BREAD OF LIFE.

Unleavened bread is a picture of Jesus. Remember that leavening is a picture of sin and Jesus was sinless. There was no leavening in Him. He, like a piece of unleavened bread, was broken for us.

"Then Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' Then they said to Him, 'Lord, give us this bread always.' And Jesus said to them, 'I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.'" - John 6:32-35

JESUS SHED HIS BLOOD FOR US.

"And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission (of sins)." - Hebrews 9:22

THERE ARE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR PARTAKING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER IN AN UNWORTHY MANNER.

1 Corinthians 11:17-34, discusses the importance of our conduct when partaking of The Lord's Supper. Some of the Corinthians were partaking of The Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner. There were divisions among them, some were over-eating, some were eating ahead of others, and some were getting drunk. *"Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. Therefore, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another. But if anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, lest you come together for judgment. And the rest I will set in order when I come." - 1 Corinthians 11:27-34*

The Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:26-30

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 26:26-30. This is "the Lord's Supper" or what some call "Communion." Why do we as a church continue to celebrate the Lord's Supper? (I Cor. 11:24-25)
2. What does the Bible tell us to do before taking the Lord's Supper? (I Cor. 11:27-29)
3. What does the bread represent? (Matt. 26:26)
4. What does the cup represent? (Matt. 26:27-28)

Memory Verse

"_____ me, O Lord, and _____ (test) me; Try my _____ and my heart."
_____ 26:2 (NKJV)

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

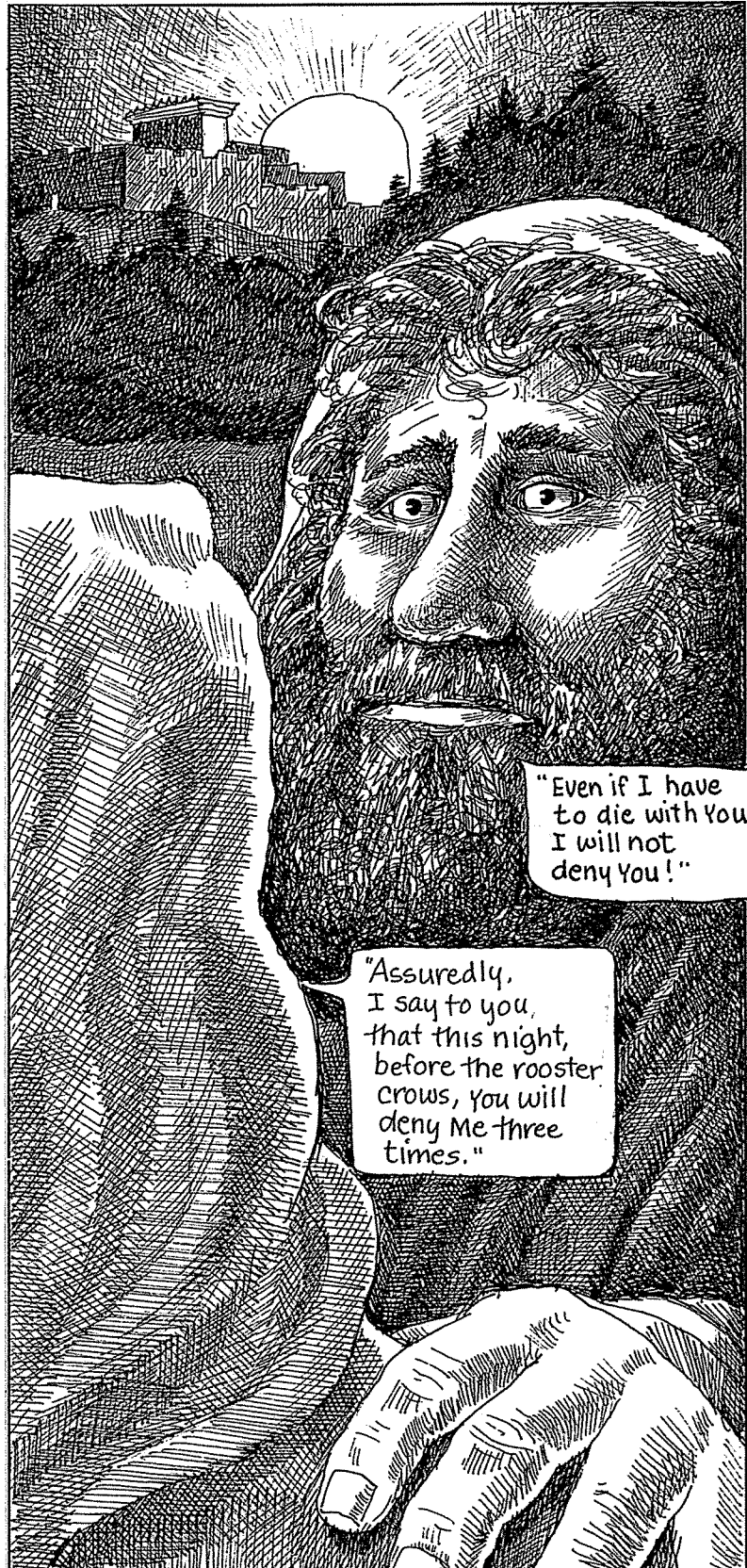
"Then Jesus said to them, 'All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: "I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered." But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.' Peter answered and said to Him, *'Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.'* Jesus said to him, *'Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.'* Peter said to Him, *'Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!'* And so said all the disciples." - Matthew 26:31-35

The Lord knew that His disciples were just men who were made of weak flesh. They thought that they would never deny Jesus, and that they would even die with Him, but when the time came, they were weak. Spiritual strength is not found within us but it is supernatural, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

... "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts.
- Zechariah 4:6

We need the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives if we are to stay strong and not deny the Lord. The disciples had not received the Holy Spirit yet, because Jesus had not been crucified. After Jesus sends the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, at Pentecost, you will see great works done by Peter and all the disciples after the Holy Spirit is given to them. From the Book of Acts through the Book of Revelation, you can see men moved and empowered by the Holy Spirit. They are bold in proclaiming the Gospel, they are beaten, imprisoned and put to death because they would not deny the Lord.

We are His workmanship. Are you born again? Ask Jesus to fill you with His Holy Spirit and to give you His power and strength to live your life so that you bring glory to God.



Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

Matthew 26:31-35

Vocabulary

1. made to stumble- take offense

Discussion Questions

1. Read Matthew 26:31-35. What does God know about man? (Ps. 103:14; Rom. 3:23)

2. What is Jesus' advice to us? Why? (Matt. 26:41)

3. What should our prayer be? (Ps. 26:2)

Memory Verse

"_____ me, O _____, and _____ (test) me; _____ my _____ and my

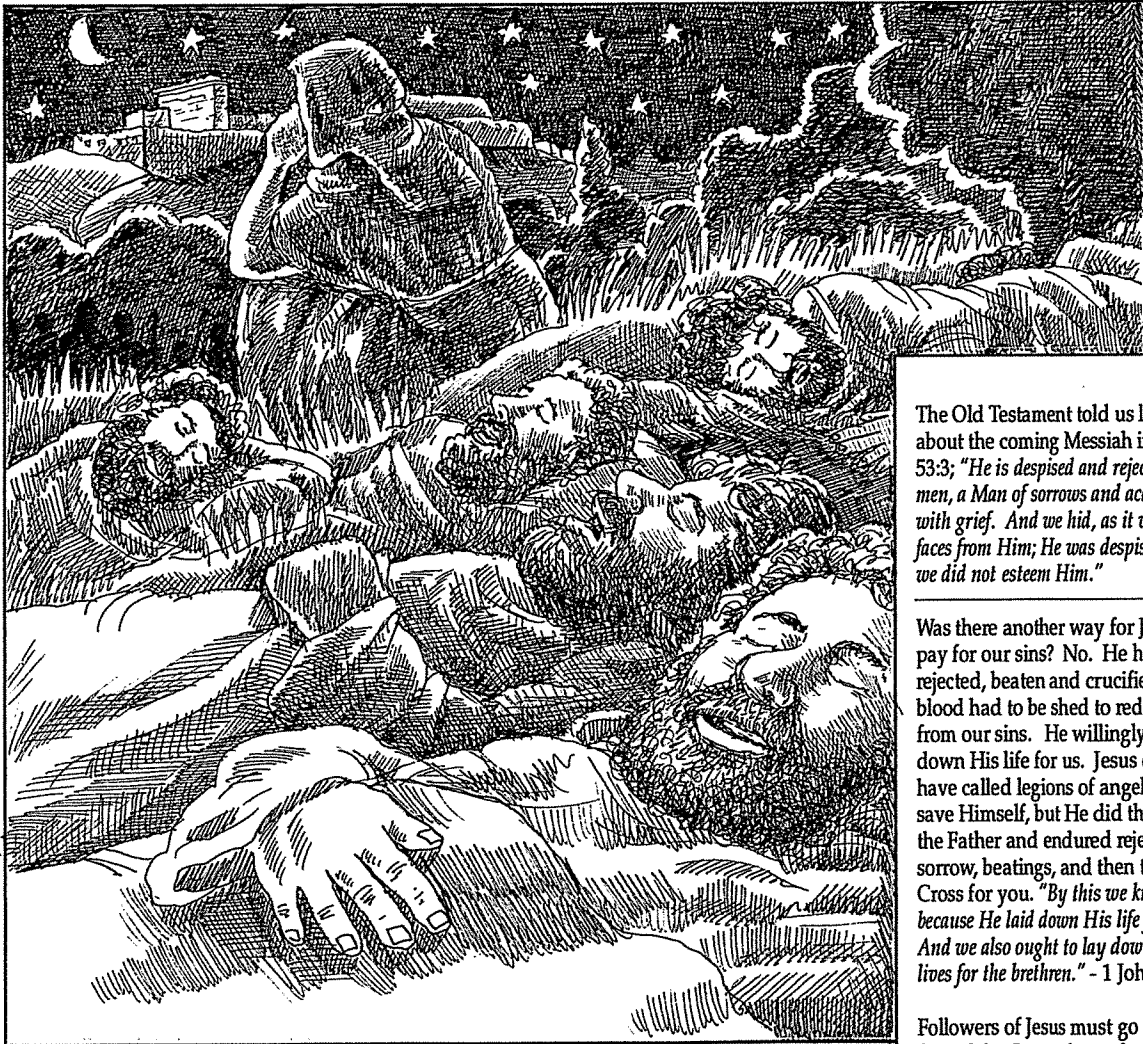
_____;"
_____: (NKJV)

A Man Of Sorrows, Jesus, Our Lord Prays At Gethsemane

"Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, 'Sit here while I go and pray over there.' And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death. Stay here and watch with Me.' He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.' Then He came to the disciples and found them

sleeping, and said to Peter, 'What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.' And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. 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 betrayer is at hand.'"

- Matthew 26:36-46



The Old Testament told us long ago about the coming Messiah in Isaiah 53:3; "He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him."

Was there another way for Jesus to pay for our sins? No. He had to be rejected, beaten and crucified. His blood had to be shed to redeem us from our sins. He willingly laid down His life for us. Jesus could have called legions of angels to save Himself, but He did the will of the Father and endured rejection, sorrow, beatings, and then the Cross for you. "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." - 1 John 3:16

Followers of Jesus must go to the foot of the Cross, die to themselves and their own desires, obey the will of the Father, sometimes suffering hardships, and be willing to lay down their lives for others.

Matthew

Chapter 26:36-46

Discussion Questions

1. Read matt. 26:36. Why did Jesus go to the place called Gethsemane?
2. Read Matt. 26:37. Which three disciples did Jesus take away with Him?
3. Read Matt. 26:38. What request did Jesus make of the disciples?
4. Read Matt. 26:39. What was Jesus' cry to His heavenly Father?
5. Read Matt. 26:40-41. How did Jesus admonish Peter? How does vs. 41 apply to our individual lives today?
6. Read Matt. 26:42. A second time Jesus prays, does His petition to His heavenly Father change?
7. Read Matt. 26:43-44. Did the disciples honor Jesus' request to watch and pray with Him? How did Jesus respond?
8. Read Matt. 26:44. What was the heart of the prayer that Jesus prayed three times?
9. Read Matt. 26:45-46. Do you think the disciples understood Jesus' statement in vs. 45 and 46?

Memory Verse

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

Matthew 26:41a (NKJV)

The Lord Is Betrayed By A Friend And Arrested By The Religious Ones At Gethesemane

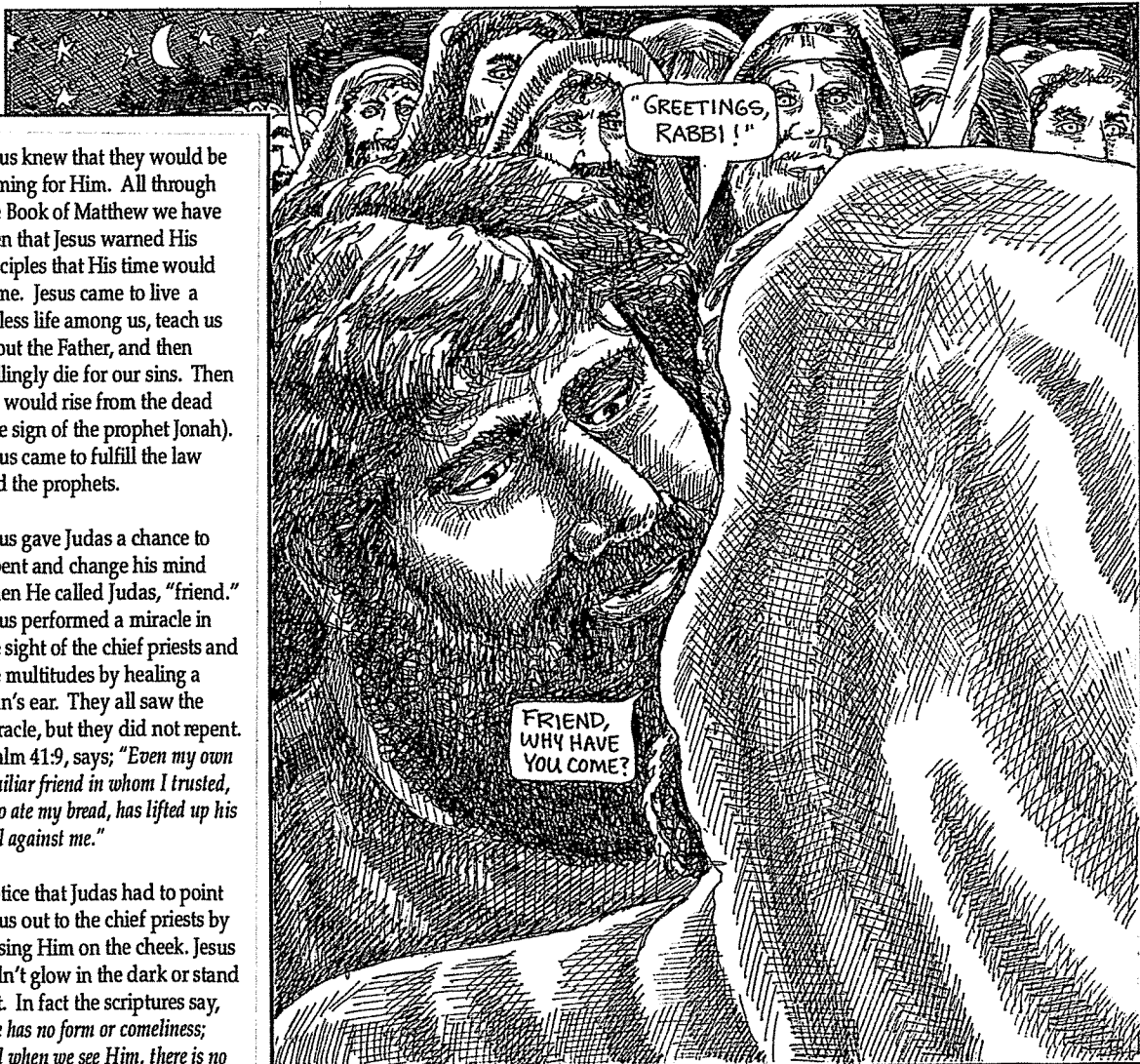
"And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him.' Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed Him. But Jesus said to him, 'Friend, why have you come?' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. And

suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. But Jesus said to him, 'Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?' In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, 'Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.' Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled." - Matthew 26:47-56

Jesus knew that they would be coming for Him. All through the Book of Matthew we have seen that Jesus warned His disciples that His time would come. Jesus came to live a sinless life among us, teach us about the Father, and then willingly die for our sins. Then He would rise from the dead (the sign of the prophet Jonah). Jesus came to fulfill the law and the prophets.

Jesus gave Judas a chance to repent and change his mind when He called Judas, "friend." Jesus performed a miracle in the sight of the chief priests and the multitudes by healing a man's ear. They all saw the miracle, but they did not repent. Psalm 41:9, says; "Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me."

Notice that Judas had to point Jesus out to the chief priests by kissing Him on the cheek. Jesus didn't glow in the dark or stand out. In fact the scriptures say, 'He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.' - Isaiah 53:2



Matthew

Chapter 26:47-56

Discussion Questions

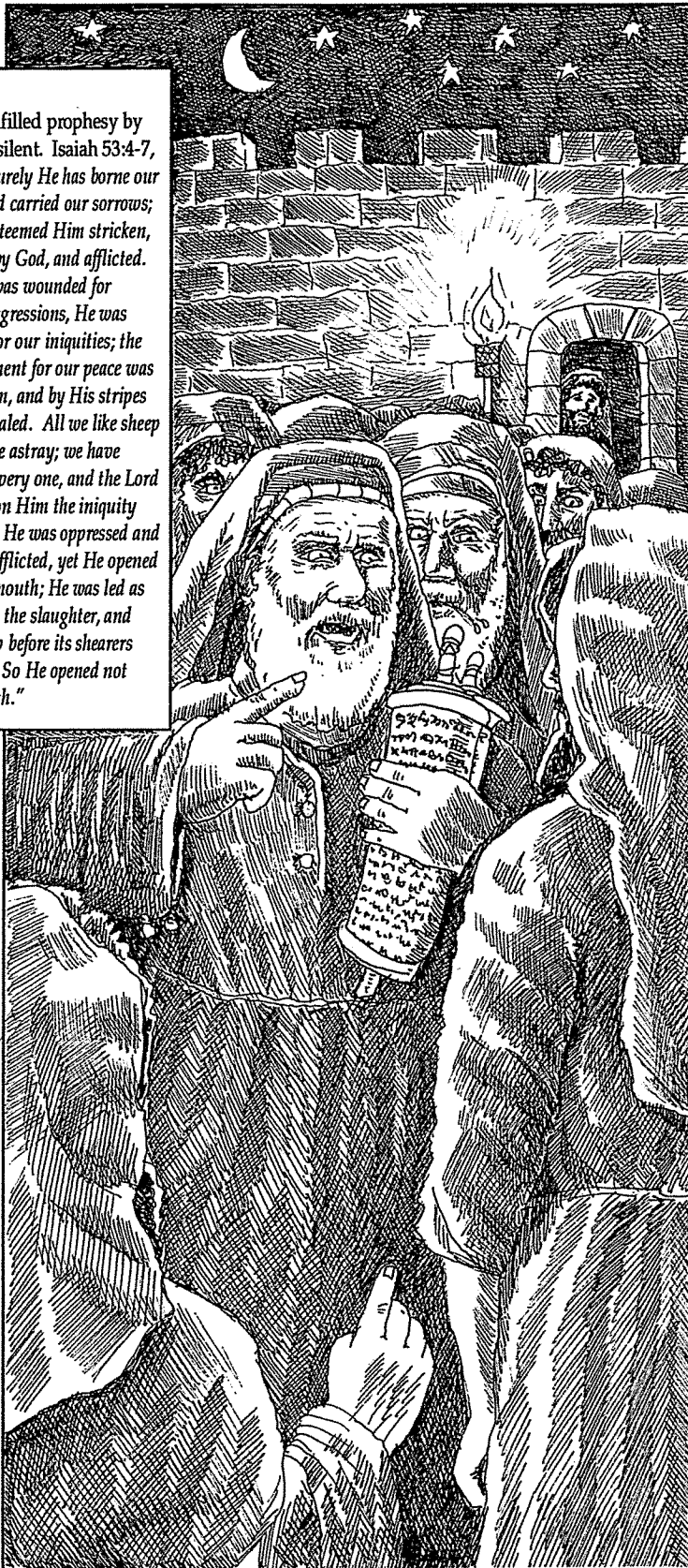
1. Read Matt. 26:47. Who showed up to betray Jesus? Was he alone?
2. Read Matt. 26:48-49. What sign did Judas Iscariot use to betray Jesus? (See Prov. 27:6.)
3. Read Matt. 26:49-50. What words were exchanged between Jesus and Judas Iscariot? (See box on front of lesson.)
4. Read Matt. 26:51 and John 18:10. Which disciple lashed out in fear and anger?
5. Read Matt. 26:52-54. What was Jesus' response to the act of violence?
6. Read Matt. 26:54-56. Why did Jesus submit to Judas' betrayal? (See Is. 53:2-11)
7. Read Matt. 26:56. Did the disciples stand bravely by Jesus in His hour of need?

Memory Verse

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Matthew 26:41 (NKJV)

Jesus fulfilled prophesy by staying silent. Isaiah 53:4-7, says, "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent. So He opened not His mouth."



Jesus Is Questioned, Beaten, Spit Upon, And Accused Of Blasphemy By The Sanhedrin

"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, but 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 on His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, saying, 'Prophesy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?'" - Matthew 26:57-68

**Jesus is Questioned, Beaten, Spit Upon,
And Accused of Blasphemy by the Sanhedrin
Matthew 26:57-68**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

1. blasphemy- speech that defames God
2. Power- referring to God the Father
3. Son of Man- referring to Jesus, fully God, but in human form

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 26:57-60. Why do you think that the Jewish leadership had to find false witnesses to accuse Jesus? (I Pet. 2:21-22)

b. The Jewish leadership were forming a case against Jesus using false witnesses. What does the Law say about this? (Deut. 19:15-19)
2. Read Matthew 26:61. Jesus really did say this in John 2:19. What temple was Jesus really talking about? (John 2:19-22)
3. Read Matthew 26:62-64. Who is Jesus?
4. Read Matthew 26:65-66. What was Jesus accused of?
5. Read Matthew 26:67-68. What did they do to Jesus?

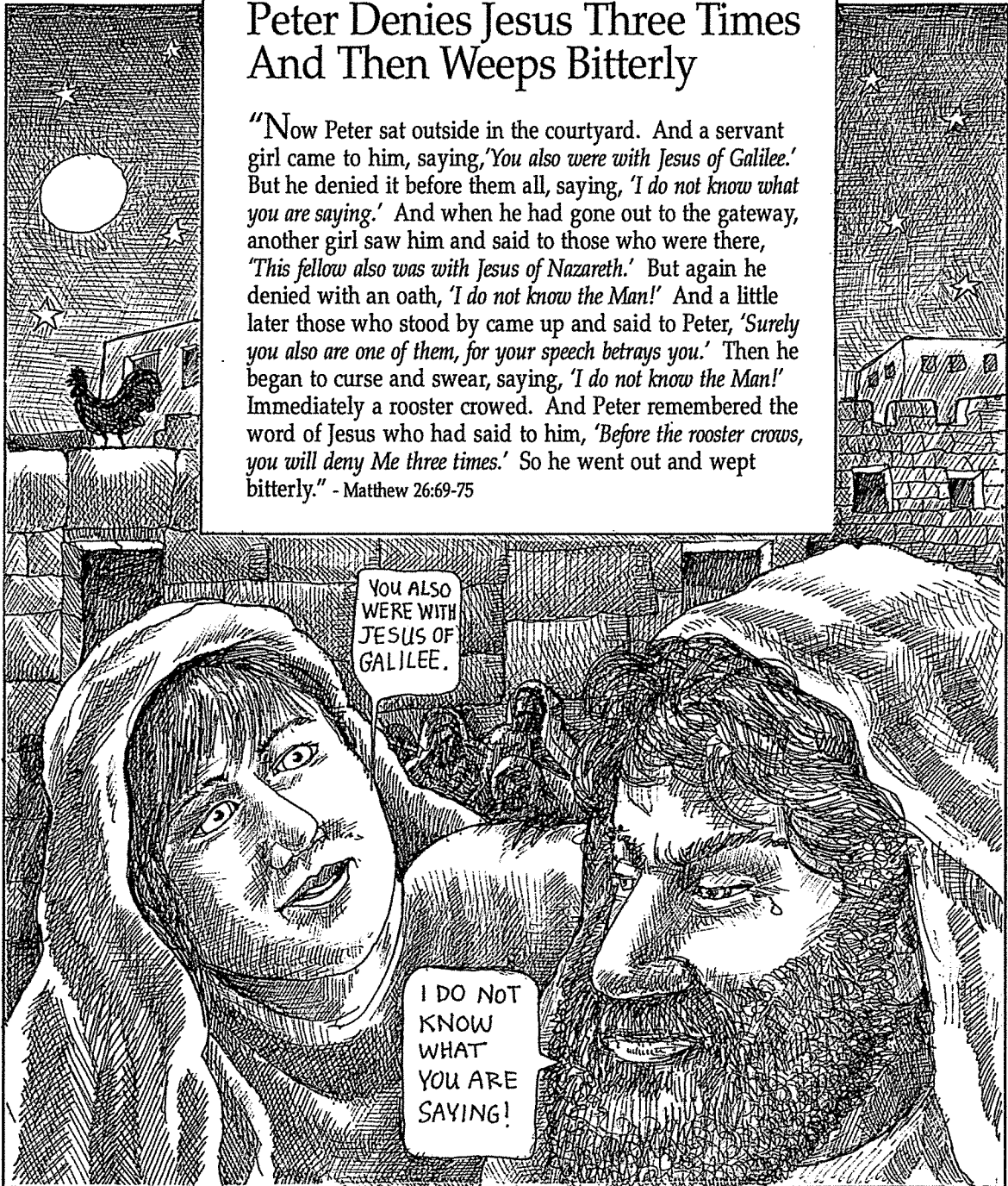
Memory Verse

"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

Matthew 5:44 (NKJV)

Peter Denies Jesus Three Times And Then Weeps Bitterly

"Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, 'You also were with Jesus of Galilee.' But he denied it before them all, saying, 'I do not know what you are saying.' And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, 'This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth.' But again he denied with an oath, 'I do not know the Man!' And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, 'Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you.' Then he began to curse and swear, saying, 'I do not know the Man!' Immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, 'Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.' So he went out and wept bitterly." - Matthew 26:69-75



The Book of Luke tells us that upon the rooster crowing, the Lord turned and looked at Peter.

Can you imagine how Peter felt?

Peter's first mistake was that he told Jesus that he would never deny Him.

It's never a good idea to boast that you will never commit a certain sin, but someone else might!

(It's called spiritual pride!) You will find that you will be eating your words. We are all vulnerable!

Jesus also told Peter and the disciples to watch and pray that they not enter into temptation.

But all they wanted to do was sleep. Stay awake spiritually and watch because Jesus is coming soon.

Know that you will fail many times, but Jesus will never forsake you. Stay humble and remember that when others sin, they need your love and prayers so that they may be restored.

**Peter Denies Jesus Three Times
And Then Weeps Bitterly
Matthew 26:69-75**

Vocabulary in Context with Today's Lesson

your speech betrays you- this refers to Peter's accent. He was originally a fisherman from Galilee (Matt. 4:18). He had a Galilean accent that would have been easily noticed in Judea.

Discussion Questions

1. a. Read Matthew 26:69-75. What did Jesus warn Peter about? (Matthew 26:31-35)

b. Did Peter believe it would happen at that time when Jesus warned him?

c. Did it happen?

2. a. What did Jesus do after Peter denied Him three times? (Luke 22:60-61)

b. How do you think Peter felt?

Note: After Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus restores Peter (John 21:15-19). He gives Peter another chance to show his love for Jesus. Jesus also gives Peter a command to feed and tend to His sheep (God's people). Even though Peter failed Jesus the first time, Jesus did not give up on him. In fact, He gave Peter a very important job to do. He has also given all of us a very important job to do (Matt. 28:18-20; Eph. 4:11-12). Take some time to think about what God has called you to do.

Memory Verse

"But I say to you, _____ your _____, _____ those who _____ you, do
_____ to those who _____ you, and _____ for those who _____ use
you and _____ you."
_____ : _____ (NKJV)