

# *The Pastor's Bible Study*

An interactive study of the Gospel of Matthew<sup>1</sup>

## Week 24 ~ Exploring Chapter 26:1-56

### Personal Study Time:

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(Use the following suggestions in your personal Bible study time this week to prepare for our class discussion on 7/28/07.)

- Start a new section in your Matthew notebook and label it chapter 25:1-56.
- Read Matthew chapters 26 & 27 through once to get a feel for the context, then re-read 26:1-56 and answer following questions in your notebook.
  - List those statements (and their references) that indicate Jesus was in control of the events leading up to the cross. Include verses 57 to 68 in this exercise.
  - Write a few sentences discussing the implications of that control for the meaning of the cross.
- Up to this time, Judas has been a minor player in the first Gospel. However, in verse 14 he moves toward center stage. Enumerate what we can learn about Judas in verses 1 to 56 and in 27:1-10. What additional facts can be gleaned from the parallel passages in Mark 14, Luke 22, and John 13? What connections are there, if any, between 26:14-16 and 26:6-12? What conclusions can be drawn from the information you have collected about Judas?
- Re-read Matthew 26:36-45 and then answer the following questions.
  - Outline the Gethsemane experience. Discuss in a paragraph or two the essence of the temptation Jesus was struggling with. Do you see any connection between that struggle, the core temptation of 4:1-10, and the problem of 16:21-26? If so, what is it?
  - There is a sense in which each of us has Gethsemane experiences that drive us to wrestle with the Lord to surrender our wills. What can you learn about the experience of Jesus that can make your surrender to God's will more full and complete?
- Re-read Matthew 26:1-75 and then address the following questions.
  - Outline Peter's experience in verses 1 to 56 and 57 to 75. List his high points and his low points.
  - What kind of character profile can you develop for Peter in these chapters?
  - Evaluate Peter's experience in John 21 in light of Matthew 26. From this viewpoint, what does John 21 teach us about Jesus (and God)? About Peter?
- Re-read Matthew 26:17-30 and then answer the following questions.
  - Have you really thought seriously about the meaning of the Lord's Supper? In what specific ways can you make the experience more meaningful for yourself and those with whom you worship?

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted and/or adapted from George R. Knight, *Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom*, The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier (Boise, Idaho: Pacific Press Pub. Association, 1994).