
*Yet, O Lord, not thus alone make me see your passion
But its cause to me make known and its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin wrought your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been of your crucifixion.
If my sins give me alarm and my conscience grieve me,
Let your cross my fears disarm; peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won by your holy passion.
If for me he slays his Son, God must have compassion!* (CW hymn 98, stanzas 3 and 4)

How do these hymn stanzas teach us a proper way to study Jesus' suffering and death?

14:1-11 (NIV)

Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill him. "But not during the Feast," they said, "or the people may riot."

While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

What contrasts among certain people do you notice in this section?

Did the plans of the high priests succeed or not?

How do Jesus' words about the woman come true?

14:12-16

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

What does this section teach you about Jesus?

What was involved in preparing the Passover meal?

What was the purpose of the Passover meal?

14:17-26

When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?"

"It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.

“This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. “I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.”

When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus had mentioned betrayal before (9:31,10:33). What saddened the disciples this time?

What do Jesus’ words about the betrayal teach us about sin?

What do we call what Jesus instituted at the meal, and why do we call it that?

What future does Jesus look forward to?

The *hymn* they sang may have been Psalms 113-118 (the *Hallel*) or parts of them.

The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation (118:14).

*The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;
the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.*

This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it (118:22-24).

*You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you.
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his mercy endures forever (118:28-29).*

Why would words like these be especially appropriate for them to sing that night?

What has Jesus suffered so far in Mark’s Passion account?