

LESSON 8

PREPARATION FOR HIS DEATH, PART 1

WEDNESDAY: THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM **(MT. 26:1–16; MK. 14:1, 2, 10, 11; LK. 22:1–6; JN. 13:1)**

Other than a brief statement made by Christ, we have no record of how He spent most of Wednesday or the first part of Thursday. It was the calm before the storm. During Wednesday and Thursday, Jesus continued to prepare the disciples whom He loved. He also surely communed with His Father and probably tried to rest for the ordeal at hand. He was preparing for Calvary. [See *Life of Christ*, 2, pp. 379–384.]

1. What was decided at the secret session of the Sanhedrin on Wednesday?
2. How much was the money worth that Judas received for betraying Jesus?
3. What did Judas' motives seem to have been in betraying Jesus?

THURSDAY: **PREPARATION FOR THE PASSOVER** **(MT. 26:17–19; MK. 14:12–16; LK. 22:7–13)**

Thursday, the day before the Passover, was known as “the first day of Unleavened Bread” (Mt. 26:17; Mk. 14:12; Lk. 22:7), because it was the day during which preparation was made for the special feast. Jesus sent Peter and John to make preparation (Lk. 22:8; see Mk. 14:13), giving them unusual instructions. [See *Life of Christ*, 2, pp. 384–387.]

4. Why would it not be difficult for the disciples to find the man carrying a water pitcher?
5. Why might Jesus have been so vague about where His disciples were to prepare for the Passover Feast?
6. What preparation would Peter and John have had to do, according to the Passover traditions, even after finding the upper room?

FRIDAY: THE DAY OF JESUS' DEATH

(MT. 26:20—27:61; MK. 14:17—15:47;

LK. 22:14—23:56A; JN. 13:2—19:37)

Shortly before sundown, Jesus “came with the twelve” (Mk. 14:17) to the place prepared. It was a night never to be forgotten. The night began with Jesus and His disciples eating the Passover in the upper room. It continued with the prayers in Gethsemane. The night’s events concluded with a mock trial of Jesus in the court of the high priest. [See *Life of Christ*, 2, pp. 387–401.]

7. How did rabbinic teaching prescribe that the Passover lamb be eaten?
8. What did Christ mean when He said that the Passover would be “fulfilled in the kingdom of God”?
9. How does the Jewish tradition of Passover parallel our Christian faith?
10. In Lk. 22:28–30, what assurances did Jesus give the disciples that their fidelity to Him would not be forgotten?
11. Which of Jesus’ teachings did He put into action by washing His disciples’ feet?
12. Since Christ encouraged His disciples to follow His example, was He establishing foot-washing as a ritual to be performed as part of Christian worship? Explain.
13. With what was Christ most concerned in washing His disciples’ feet?
14. In Jn. 13:18, what Scripture did Jesus say would be fulfilled by His betrayal?
15. Why did Jesus tell His disciples about His betrayal before it happened?
16. Why did the disciples probably not suspect Judas, despite Jesus’ clear prediction that he would betray Him?
17. Did Judas appear to have been fazed by the fact that Jesus knew he would be the one to betray Him?
18. In what way was Jesus’ instruction in Jn. 13:34 a “new commandment”?

19. How can we reconcile the difference in the number of cock crows that the different gospel writers quoted Jesus as predicting following Peter's denials of Him?
20. Why did Jesus mention buying a sword in Lk. 22:36?