

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 03.15.2020

A DIVINE APPOINTMENT – MATTHEW 26:1-25

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Ray shared with us this weekend, that this is the first time since Maranatha's inception, that we have not met as a congregation in our facility. But the church is not a building, it is people and we can gather anyplace, anytime, anywhere! We did not make the decision to go online until Thursday afternoon, with much discussion and prayer among the Pastors. It's Unprecedented! By the way, this is how they do Church every week in China (130 Million)! This is how they do Church in Iran (Revival). Maybe the Lord is giving us some empathy, and training. We have always *prayed* and *desired* for the Church to *return to its roots* as in the days of the Book of Acts. *Welcome to the Book of Acts!* We do not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future! Today, as we compare and contrast Mary's act of anointing vs Judas act of betrayal, we see that Mary's name now smells sweet for all of eternity, while the name of Judas name rots... What Mary did was remarkable for its motive -*an absolute pure heart and loving heart. It was done for Jesus alone. And it was unusual, extraordinary, unprecedented.* Why would Judas betray Jesus after following Him for all this time? We will answer these questions today. Let's get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What stood out or spoke to you most from Pastor Ray's message this weekend?
2. Has there been a time in your life where you expected God to do something for you, i.e., get a job you wanted, have a relationship you desired or something you were sure you would receive, but it didn't work out? What was your reaction? Where you angry with God? Explain?

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 26:7-13 (Review)

1. Why do you think that Mary came at this time to anoint Jesus with such an expensive anointing oil?
2. Who complained about the costliness of the oil and why?
3. What promise was made by Jesus about Mary? What does this tell you about all those who faithfully love and follow Jesus?

Mary had more faith in the promises of Christ than the disciples. She had real faith that each thing would happen just as Christ said it would happen. Today her name is remembered for her faith. Christ said that her faith would be shared wherever the Gospel was shared. As a result, the faith of Mary has been proclaimed throughout the entire world. Christ said that this would be a memorial to her. Here we see that Christ chose to honor the faith of Mary. This reminds us that Christ focuses on different things than the world. His great concern is to see true faith.

On Fire for God in 2018

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MATTHEW 26:14-16 Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

1. With whom did Judas Iscariot make a deal, and why (v. 14-15)?
2. Those with whom Judas arranged a deal agreed to pay him. How much did they agree to pay (v. 15)? Why do you think they offered that amount? (See Exodus 21:32 and Zechariah 11:12-13.)
3. After Judas arranged the deal, what was he on the lookout for (v. 16)?

READ MATTHEW 26:17-19 - The Passover is Prepared -

1. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is a seven-day event. On the first day of the feast, what did the disciples ask Jesus (v. 17)?
2. Jesus instructed His disciples to go into the city, to a certain man. How would they know which man (See Mark 14:13.)?
3. What were the disciples instructed to tell the master of the house where the certain man went in (v. 18)? (See also Mark 14:14-15.)

READ MATTHEW 26:20-25 - The Passover is Celebrated

1. Jesus and His twelve disciples sat down to celebrate the Passover (v. 20). What announcement did Jesus make while they were eating (v. 21)? How did the disciples react to His announcement (v. 22)?
2. Jesus informed His disciples who the announcement referred to (v. 23). Who was Jesus referring to and what “woe” did He pronounce upon that person (v. 24)? How did the person Jesus pronounced a “woe” upon refer to Him (v. 25)? (See also 1 Corinthians 12:3.)
3. In your opinion, why did Judas decide to betray Jesus? In your opinion, what expectations did Judas have of Jesus, that didn’t turn out the way he wanted them to?
4. Are there times you have had expectations (about life, job, family, dreams) that didn’t go the way you wanted? How do you react? How should we react? (James 5:7-9, Prov. 3:5, Psalms 62:8)

The only *motive* given in scripture about Judas is one of *greed*. “*What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?*” Perhaps Judas was disillusioned with *the type of Messiah Jesus revealed Himself to be* - One reason Judas may have betrayed Jesus is that Jesus was not bringing His Kingdom the way Judas thought He should. It did not meet his expectations. He may have thought Jesus should use His powers differently. Have you ever felt like that? **WARNING: Be careful you do not Betray Jesus because He has not done things according to how you think He should be doing them.**

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Ray stated that the Lord impressed upon his heart the word for the year “PREPARE.” Then the Lord directed us to 40 days of prayer and fasting. In the midst of prayer and fasting the virus came upon the scene.

On Fire for God in 2018

Now we find ourselves meeting from house to house the way the first century Christians did. For such a time as this the Lord has called you to open your home and lead a Growth Group to help shepherd the flock of God. We are called not just to go to Church, but to “BE THE CHURCH.” Pastor Ray gave us the example of going to our neighbor and to show love by making ourselves available to help them in practical ways. Encourage one another, build up one another and love one another!

1. In what practical way can you show love your neighbor this week?
2. Share ideas with one another on how each member can reach out to their neighbors for Christ. (*i.e. offer to pick up something from the store for them...*)
3. Encourage each member to use their spiritual gifts and abilities in your group (1 Cor 12:4-31). Encourage some to step out in faith and start new Growth Groups. **Use the materials we have to start new groups.** <https://maranathachapel.org/growth-group-materials>

PRAYER – Take time to allow people to share their prayer requests. Pray for one another, cast out fear and trust that the Lord will use all circumstances for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. Meet practical needs of one another. Rejoice, for our redemption draws near!

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,” Acts 2:42-44

P.S. NEXT WEEK PASTOR RAY WILL BE DOING COMMUNION. HE WOULD LIKE ALL THE LEADERS TO PREPARE THE ELEMENTS (the bread and grape juice) SO THAT YOUR GROUP CAN TAKE COMMUNION TOGETHER WITH PASTOR RAY WHILE JOINING LIVESTREAM THIS COMING WEEKEND.