

Events leading to Good Friday Bible Study Notes (NRSV)

4/7/20

Primary texts for today. These two texts tell the sacred story of Jesus last day on the earth as a man:

- Mark 14 - 15
- Matthew 26-27

This week's study focuses on the time frame of the Last Supper to the Crucifixion. These notes are largely based on Adam Hamilton's book: "24 Hours".

• **Prelude: Triumphant entry into Jerusalem**

1. Last Supper (Mark 14:12-26)

- Takes place in the Upper Room with the 12 Disciples where they have gathered to celebrate the Passover (Exodus 12-13)
- Judas leaves to betray Jesus to the religious authorities.
- Jesus changes the Passover ritual to what we call the Lord's Supper.
- Other related passages:
Matthew 26:1-30, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Luke 22:39-44

2. Garden of Gethsemane (Mark 14:26-52)

- The group, less Judas, walks to the Garden of Gethsemane.
- Jesus goes away from the group to pray, but brings along Peter, James and John.
- The three keep falling asleep, disappointing Jesus
- Jesus is in anguish/turmoil, pleading with God about what is to come.
- Jesus shows His humanity in His distress, He shows His divinity in knowing what is coming.
- Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss.
- The Disciples run away.
- Other related passages:
Matthew 26:31-56, Luke 19:41-44.

3. Condemned by the Religious Authorities (Mark 14:53-72)

- A "mob", likely the temple police, take Jesus to the home of Caiaphas, the high priest of the Sanhedrin.
- The Sanhedrin was 71 elders, much like our Senate, that were the highest religious leaders of the Jewish people.
- This trial took place at night during a high festival. It was not legal according to Jewish law to have a secret trial at night, nor did the Sanhedrin meet during festivals.

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- Jesus was on trial with the Sanhedrin for blasphemy.
- Jesus threatened the Sanhedrin's position of respect and authority.
- They decided that Jesus must die. But the Jewish authorities were not allowed under Roman law to execute people.
- Their problem was blasphemy was not a capital offence to the Romans. Therefore, they changed the charge to Jesus claimed to be "King of the Jews" which was a threat to Caesar the Emperor.
- During this mock trial Jesus did not try to defend himself.
- Peter denies Jesus, "the cock crows thrice!"
- Other related passages:
Matthew 26:57-75, Daniel 7:13-14, Psalm 110:1-4

4. Trial by Pontius Pilate, traded for Barabbas (Mark 15:1-15)

- Pilate questions Jesus, but Jesus is silent.
- Pilate recognizes that Jesus is innocent – that the Jewish leaders are jealous of Jesus' popularity.
- Pilate's wife had a dream about Jesus and pleaded with Pilate to have nothing to do with Jesus! (Matthew 27:19)
- There was a custom for Pilate to release one prisoner during this festival. He has Barabbas convicted to death by crucifixion, but offers Jesus up for release.
- Barabbas full name was Jesus Barabbas which meant: Savior, son of the Father.
- One irony is that both Jesus (the Christ) and Barabbas represented messianic figures. Jesus through peace and love, Barabbas through violence and strength.
- The crowd insists that Pilate release Barabbas.
- This made Barabbas the first sinner that Jesus died for.
- Judas hangs himself
- Other related passages:
Matthew 27:1-26, Romans 6:23

5. Torture and Humiliation (Mark 15:16-23)

- Pilate releases Jesus to the soldiers to be flogged and crucified.
- Flogging was an "art form" with the Romans. Whips with hooks like fishhooks were used to literally tear open prisoner's flesh and muscles.
- Their practice was to flog a prisoner to the point that they were just able to carry their own cross to the crucifixion site.
- They also humiliated Jesus in several ways – please read the Scriptures
- During this segment of time we see evil in human beings. This evil is still among us today when people are placed in certain situations.
- It is notable that Jesus came to save the world, but the world stooped so low to treat Jesus in this fashion. And Jesus "took it".

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- After being beaten so badly, Jesus was forced to carry His cross the 1 mile to Golgotha – except he couldn't. The Romans had beaten him too hard!
- Jesus refused to drink any of the "bitter gall" (a narcotic) that the soldiers offered to him so he could keep a clear mind.
- Other related passages:
Matthew 27:27-34

6. Crucifixion (Mark 15:24-41)

- I will leave this to your reading. There are no words to describe this.
- Other related passages:
Matthew 27:35-56.

- **Coming up next: Easter – the Risen Savior**