

Sermon Title: **Betrayed or Sacrificed**

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Scripture Reference: **Matthew 26:14-30**

Thesis: **As Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples at the Last Supper a discussion ensued as to who betrayed Jesus; but was Jesus betrayed or was He sacrificed and by whom?**

Purpose: **Today, we will learn how Jesus reconciled us to God.**

Key Word: **"Jesus' Passion"**

I) Introduction:

Scripture Reading is: **Matthew 26:14-30**

A) The Setting:

1) **Today is the beginning of Holy Week**

- (a) Beginning with Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem as he rides the two-mile trip from Bethany to Jerusalem.
- (b) People lined the streets, many of them camping having come to celebrate the Passover.
- (c) I believe that word had spread of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead a couple of months or so before this event caused people to now raise their voices in praise to Jesus.
- (d) Jesus was the talk of the town and many had heard or seen Him perform miracles.

2) **We often focus on this event on what has become for us Palm Sunday.**

- (a) But today, I want to take us to a time later in the week.
- (b) It is Thursday, the day before the Jewish Passover was to be celebrated and preparations had to be made.

3) **The celebration Passover meal would take place after Sundown.**

- (a) The Jews believed that the next day began with the setting of the sun.
- (b) Where we think of midnight; they thought of nightfall as the beginning of the next day.

4) **It is fitting that we are going to celebrate this event today at the end of our service.**

- (a) For we will carry out Jesus Command to do this until He returns to establish His Kingdom.
- (b) It is a way for us to remember what He did and what He has promised to do.
- (c) It is a time to self-reflect on our own walk with Jesus and remember the place He holds in our lives.

5) **After Jesus' Triumphal entry into Jerusalem; Jesus confronted the Religious leaders driving out the money changers out of the temple.**

- (a) Turning over tables and accusing them of robbing the people by over charging for Temple sacrifices and changing for temple coins.
- (b) It is kind of like Airport giftshops where they have you secured in places away from home and they charge inflated prices for the convenience of not having to go out.

6) **The Jewish Religious Leaders really want to take Jesus down now and hard.**

- (a) They hate His growing popularity.
- (b) And they hate his criticism of the pious ways and privileged lives at the expense of others.
- (c) The problem is when can they get him without causing a riot?
- (d) The answer comes in a Betrayer who will take advantage of the situation to serve his own purposes.

7) **So, let's see the story for ourselves with our scripture reading for today in Matthew 26:14-30.**

B) *Sermon Prayer*

C) (The Hook)

- 1) **So, as we read a few moments ago we see that Judas betrays Jesus and presents a way for the Religious leaders to get their hands on Jesus during the quiet of the night.**
 - (a) While most people are sleeping, they move quickly to apprehend Jesus, try him in a kangaroo court.
 - (b) And as soon as they can they get Jesus to the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate seeking His execution.
- 2) **But who really betrayed Jesus?**
 - (a) The answer may not be as simple as it appears?
 - (b) John calls Jesus the sacrificial Lamb of God.
- 3) **This is a reference to the Passover Lamb sacrificed for the sins of the people.**
 - (a) And Jesus himself told Pilate in **John 10:18**, that, *"No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded."* (NLT)
 - (b) So, was Jesus Betrayed or Sacrificed?
 - (c) Was it at the hand of someone else or was orchestrated by God?

TS: Well that is what we are going to explore in the next few minutes by first looking at . . .

II) Body: (Key Points)

A) Key Point #1: **Who Betrayed Jesus?**

- 1) **When Jesus said one of His disciples would betray Him none of the disciples could figure it out except for the one who it was.**
 - (a) But instead of pointing fingers at each other . . .
 - (b) I think it is interesting that they each thought it could be themselves as evident by their questions, **"Is it I?"** or **"Surely not I, Lord."**
- 2) **Immediately each of them went to their own conscious and wanted to know if it were possible for themselves to betray Jesus.**
 - (a) The closer we get to Jesus, the more we become aware of our own shortcomings.
 - (b) The perfection of Jesus reveals our own sins and flaws.
- 3) **Yes, we know that Jesus was referring to Judas Iscariot; but at the time that Jesus said this no one knew.**
 - (a) Even Judas sitting at the left of Jesus said **"Surely not I, Lord."**
 - (b) Peter motioned to John reclining on the right side of Jesus who leaned back and asked Jesus who it could be?
- 4) **Jesus said it was the one whom dipped his hand in the bowl with me.**
 - (a) That did not help since all had partaken in the meal.
 - (b) It was the practice for the host at the Passover meal to take a piece of flat bread, put a little of the meat on the bread, roll it and dip it into the bowl and pass it out to everyone.
- 5) **Jesus had put Judas in the place of honor at His left and the disciples would have expected that would be the very first one to whom Jesus would have passed the bread.**
 - (a) But, this did not clue in the others that it was him.
 - (b) Even when Jesus leaned over and quietly told Judas to **"... go quickly and do what he had to do."**
- 6) **The rest of the disciples still would not have known.**
 - (a) Again, in John he lets us know that the disciples only thought that Jesus had sent Judas on a special mission;
 - (b) Perhaps to get more in preparation or give a thanksgiving offering to the poor.
- 7) **What we have here is a beautiful picture of Jesus offering Judas a chance of forgiveness even as he prepared to betray Jesus.**
 - (a) This is the same offer that Jesus makes to all who follow Him.

- (b) Since in reality don't we all betray Jesus at one time or another . . .
- (c) But Jesus is there willing to forgive us and accept us back.

TS: But, what do we do with Jesus' statement that he was offering himself (Sacrificially) laying down His life; this brings us to the other question . . .

B) Key Point #2: Who Sacrificed Jesus?

- 1) **Ultimately, God was in charge and Jesus, who is God Himself, could have called a legion of angels to His defense if that was His will.**
 - (a) So, even though betrayed, Jesus was still in control of His own fate.
 - (b) Jesus didn't want to go to the cross.
 - (c) He agonized over it; however, he succumbed to the will of the Father.
- 2) **The only way that mankind had any hope of being reconciled with God was if God did it.**
 - (a) That is why Jesus came to show us the way back to a right relationship with God.
 - (b) Jesus was sacrificed at the made-up accusations of the Jewish religious leaders and the hand of the Roman guards . . .
 - (c) But what ultimately put Jesus on the cross ...
 - (d) **was His desire to rescue us from the judgement of God for our SINS.**
- 3) **Doesn't that make each of us responsible for putting Jesus on the Cross?**
 - (a) Isn't it because we have all betrayed Jesus at one point or another?
 - (b) Didn't Jesus have to face the cross to sacrifice for our SINS?

C) TS: So, as we go in a few moments to share in the same ceremony that Jesus taught His disciples hours before He was betrayed What should we take with us?

III) Conclusion (Life Application)

A) Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper as a continual practice for His followers for several reasons, of which here are three:

- 1) **For us to remember His suffering & Covenant** (1 Cor. 11:24-25).
 - (a) Jesus did not want His followers to grow forgetful of the great sacrifice He paid.
 - (b) A sacrifice for them, and the salvation which we received.
- 2) **For us to Proclaim His death till He returns** (1 Cor. 11:26).
 - (a) The enactment of this supper is to be repeated over and over.
 - (b) We are to continually emphasized the essential fact of His death, portrayed the reasons why, and served as a reminder of His second coming.
- 3) **For us to take self examination of our lives** (1 Cor. 11:28).
 - (a) Jesus instituted this supper as a very holy moment, for us to consider the state of our own heart before God and remember our place before a holy God.
 - (b) As we approach the sacredness of His body and blood, we are to weigh our heart against the awesomeness of His sacrifice.
 - (c) In this humble state, any faults, imperfections and sins that come to mind are an opportunity to allow us to confess them and obtain His forgiveness (**1 John 1:9**).

B) Let's make the most of this Holy Week.

- 1) I encourage you to come to some of the special services we will have this week
- 2) Maundy Thursday at 6 PM here at First Baptist Church
- 3) **The Good Friday Service at Getchell Street Baptist Church from Noon to 3 PM.**
 - (a) You can come for all or part of the service.
 - (b) But it will be an opportunity to reflect on what Jesus did and our place with Him.
- 4) Or the Easter Sunrise Service at the Grove Street Park
- 5) Or our own Easter Service 9:30 AM.
- 6) I promise, You will be blessed for it.

IV) Invitation: Let us Pray!