

Lesson 48 Matthew 26. 1-5 (1) Jesus teaching on completing the task God gave

The fifth discourse begins

Two days to go and the Son of Man will be handed over. The plot was hatched in the High Priest's courtyard, but it was to be suspended till after Passover.

Jesus warned His own that they had only two days of his company before the Son of Man is handed over to be crucified. At that very time the High Priests and scribes and elders met in caucus to plot the capture of Jesus. They determined it had to be by trickery and they also decided it should not be during the feast lest there be a tumult among the people.

Survey of the fourth discourse

This section of teaching is related by Matthew as preparatory not just to the work of the cross but as discourses given in Judea they link manifestly with His claim to be King of Israel and to His sovereignty in history. The "Logoi" or sayings are 5 sets in all and the ones here summarised fall into our chapters 5-7.28; 7.29-13.52; 13.53-18.35; 19.1-26.1

Lets look at the contribution of each set of teachings:-

The first discourse

The sermon on the mount and teaching on prayer on faith on overcoming anxiety, on playacting in religion, on the priority of the Kingdom of God and on building for eternity established Jesus credentials as one who has direct authority from God and not from other scribes-belonging to the Capernaum setting. Here there is no mention of the cross but Jesus is intent on showing the need for deeper spirituality than the scribes and Pharisees practised

The second discourse

The prophetic warnings and parables Jesus gave on the harvest while based in the Capernaum -Bethsaida- Chorazin triangle and Galilee- during which time His disciples then and now were briefed on the solemnity of carrying the message of the kingdom. These words include much on the judgement to come-where His sovereignty compared the ultimate better rating of the East Africans above the Jews of Jesus day and a similar bracketing of Tyre and Sidon with Chorazin and Bethsaida. Outstanding teachings of the section are the Parables of the Sower, the Weeds, the Mustard Seed, the Hidden Treasure and the Dragnet. Here the cross is taught under the sign of Jonah

The third discourse

The sayings of Jesus belong to a wide-ranging ministry in northern Israel. They were spoken around the wheel of Galilee, Tyre and Sidon and then Caesarea Philippi and Mt Hermon itself. Here is much teaching on Faith-the capacity of five loaves and two fish with faith; the Canaanite's faith; Peter's faith declared at Caesarea Philippi; the call for mustard seed faith and fasting; and finally how faith works by love as in the case of child-like confidence in one who loves the child or in the case of gently setting right a quarrel or the case of learning to forgive "big time". Here in a most challenging way Jesus presents the message of the cross after Peter's confession and consolidates it for James John and Peter on the Mount of Transfiguration

The fourth discourse

Sayings related to the Bethabara and Jerusalem ministry of Christ-relating to the span of Christian work over the centuries as the house of a day; the fig tree and Israel set aside; the Tenants and Gentile outreach; spiritual clothing And the meeting with Jesus and end time signs and parables. Here the cross is presented as a special session of teaching on the way to Jerusalem.

From paper to practice.



1. Give your own view of how important the cross is within the teaching of Jesus
2. How could Matthew be specific as to when Jesus said certain things?
3. If Matthew could retail so much of Jesus teaching should we too try to memorise scripture