

MEET THE KING!

with Matthew

'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased (Mat. 3:17)'



Handouts to help you read & understand –
for personal Bible study, reading the Bible with a friend or with a group

3^d Session THEME: The precious King

1. Start with prayer. Then look at this icebreaker question. 10 minutes to get started

Think of Jesus' death at the cross. What would you say is a more appropriate response to this event: to weep and lament because of it, or to rejoice at it? First think about this. Then share what your answer is and why – without starting a discussion.

2. Read Matthew 26:1-16 30 minutes to understand the passage

Look again at verses 1-5 Do you understand whose stunning plan the death of Jesus was?

- Look at these verses. How does Matthew answer the question whose plan Jesus' death was?
- Do you know why it matters that Jesus should die at the Passover feast?
- Jesus refers to himself as 'the Son of Man'. Look quickly through Daniel 7:9-14, Matthew 24:27-44 and Matthew 25:31-34 to understand what that term signifies. Then read 26:2 again. What strikes you now?
- Jesus' death was the plan of the religious leaders also. But did it go according to their plan?
- Why did God plan the death of his Son? (If you have time, you may look at Romans 5:6-11 for your answer)

Look again at verses 6-12 Do you perceive what the woman perceived?

The myrrh with which the woman anointed Jesus, had the worth of a year's salary.

- Can you imagine that the woman had no clue of what she was doing?
- What may the woman have perceived? (look also at what Jesus says about this)
- Can you imagine the response of the disciples?
- What are we to perceive, when we think of Jesus' death? (If you have time, you may look at Isaiah 53:1-5 for your answer)

Look again at verses 13-16 Jesus' death, proclaimed and a stumbling block

- What – according to the text – would be the most proper response for us, once we see why it was God's plan that Jesus should die: to see how we can anoint Jesus in our time? Or: to make every effort to see the Gospel proclaimed in all the world?
- Does the calling to proclaim the Gospel in all the world (see also Matthew 28:16-20) feel more like your duty or more like your desire?
- For Judas, the affirmation by Jesus that he would indeed die a shameful death at the cross, rather than that he would become the triumphant king immediately, was his stumbling block. Do you see that the message that we cannot be saved by our works, but have to be saved by Jesus' shameful death at the cross, can still be a stumbling block today?

3. Apply and end with prayer. 15 minutes to make it personal and to pray

Look at the icebreaker question again. Read I Peter 2:4-10. Would you like to modify/change/reaffirm your answer to the icebreaker question? Share. End with prayer.

4. Digging deeper.

Concerning human plans and God's plan, you may look at Joseph's story (Genesis 45:5,7,8 Genesis 50:20) and at the book of Psalms (Psalm 2, Psalm 31:13,14, Psalm 33:10,11)