

## For Further Discussion of Matthew 26

*These questions are provided for your further application and study. Read through the entire chapter **and then** answer/discuss the following questions.*

### Observation Questions:

1. According to **verse 2**, what is the time frame of these events? How long until Jesus' impending crucifixion?
2. Identify all the places in **verses 1-56** of this chapter that Jesus makes reference to His death. (Hint: There are eight)

What is the context surrounding each one of these references?

3. Identify all the places in this chapter Jesus makes reference to the necessity of the Scriptures being fulfilled. (Hint: There are four.)

Especially consider the wording of the first part of **verse 24**. How does this wording inform us about how Jesus lived His life?

4. What is the most common way Jesus refers to Himself in this chapter?
5. In **verses 6-13** how does Jesus define the act of the woman who poured perfume on his head?

### Interpretation Questions:

6. Name the two parties this chapter alludes to as being responsible for Jesus' death?

**Acts 4:27-30** supports this. After reading **Acts 4:24-31** discuss what the source for the church's strength in the midst of hardship and opposition was.

Returning to Matthew 26 read **verse 24**. What two truths are you being expected to embrace which, on the surface, can seem to be at odds with each other? Do you see these two truths side by side in any other places in the Scriptures?

7. In chapter 26 two titles are used for Jesus – 'Son of Man' (v. 2) and 'Son of God' (v. 63). The first is the only title Matthew records Jesus using to describe Himself, while the other (Son of God) was said by Satan, demons, Peter, the High Priest, and a Roman centurion. Why might there be this distinction? Why do you think Jesus never announced Himself to be the 'Son of God', even though He was and affirmed it when others identified Him with this title?

In the same light, Matthew 16:16 records Peter rightly confessing in the presence of the other disciples that Jesus was "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (16:16). Then in Matthew 17 Jesus allows Peter, James and John to see Him in His glorified state, after which Jesus say, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead" (17:9). Why do you think Jesus wouldn't want anyone to know what they saw until after His resurrection?

Through these examples, and in light of **Hebrews 5:5** and **1 Peter 5:6**, what do you think Matthew wants his reader's lives to emulate?

8. In **verse 64** Jesus unmistakably connects Himself to what is written in **Daniel 7:13-14**. After reading these two verses in the context of the entire chapter of Daniel 7, what claim is Jesus making that would infuriate the High Priest so much?

**Application Question:**

9. If God's agenda for us, as followers of Christ, is to be "conformed into the image of His Son" (Rom. 8:29) and to "walk as Jesus walked" (1 Jn. 2:6), then explore all that we learn from Jesus in this chapter as to how our lives are to be lived out?
10. Throughout this chapter Peter is consistently highlighted. Shortly after informing him that he would deny Him three times, Jesus specifically tells HIM that he is to "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (vs. 41). A short while later Peter denies that he knows Him three times (vss. 69-75). Discuss the connection between focused prayer and our ability to stand courageously for Christ.

Unlike Peter, Jesus didn't waiver but "in His testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession (1 Tim. 6:13). Matthew wants the reader to know, amongst other things, that Jesus gained the strength He needed through His prayer. Discuss the nature of the prayer Jesus prayed. How does this compare with the sort of prayer you typically pray when you are facing hardship?