INTRODUCTION

- We begin the final countdown to our Lord’s crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. True to Matthew’s mode-of-operandi, he provides just the pure facts with little fanfare.

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| Matthew 26:1-5 | The Plot to Kill Jesus  
- What would possess religious leaders, society’s cream-of-the-crop, supposedly the nicest and most helpful & generous people around to devilish plot against someone who had healed 1,000’s from any & every ailment?  
- Evidently, they had a heart problem, but WHY?  
- What does it take to soften one’s heart toward God? |
| Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-50 and John 12:1-8 | Jesus Has His Feet Washed Twice by Women  
Early in His ministry  
- In Galilee (Luke 7)  
- House of Simon the Pharisee  
- Unnamed woman was a known sinner who got saved  
- Washed feet with tears  
- Simon was offended  

End of His Ministry  
- In Bethany (Mat, Mrk, John)  
- House of Simon the Leper  
- Woman was Mary, noble & saved sister of Lazanus  
- Anointed head & feet with oil  
- Judas was offended  

- Both these women “got it” – they knew who Jesus really was  
- Simon the Pharisee and Judas “missed it” because they had a Heart Problem |
| 26:14-25 | Judas’ Betrayal and the Last Passover  
- Was Judas saved or unsaved?  
  - Judas saw the Messiah in action  
  - Judas witnessed tremendous miracles by Jesus  
  - Judas worked healings along with the other Apostles  
  - He was an Apostle in good standing as he had the seat of honor sitting next to Jesus at the Last Supper  
  - Judas seemed remorseful of betraying Jesus  
  - He threw away the 30 pieces of silver he received  
  - He hanged himself he was so despondent  
  - Yet, preaching, miracle working, & knowing about Jesus does not save ......................... Mat 7:23  
  - What was Judas lacking for salvation? .... Luke 14:26 |
| 26:26-29 | The Lord’s Supper Instituted  
- v26 “…take, eat; this is MY body”  
- How literal should this passage be taken?  
- Catholics take this passage and others to justify their doctrine of Transubstantiation where the Eucharist becomes the actual body and blood of Jesus – BUT Jesus was speaking from a heavenly perspective, as He often did, where to eat His flesh and drink His blood is equivalent to hungering and thirsting for God’s righteousness ……..Matthew 5:6; John 6:53-58 |
| 26:30 | Jesus Sings with the Other Men  
- What good does singing do? Consider this:  
  - God likes to hear NEW songs and people playingskillfully on their musical instruments …Ps 33:3; 96:1  
  - God puts a NEW song in our hearts …………Ps 40:3  
  - In Heaven, God will hear NEW songs…Rev 5:9; 14:3  
  - For some of us musically-challenged people, music is nice to hear, but painful to join in singing loudly  
  - BUT God enjoys music. It is a HIGH priority element of worship for Him |

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS.

- The Passion Week was not a pleasant time for Jesus and His disciples to endure.
- There seemed to have been only about 3 enjoyable incidences during this difficult time in the Lord’s final week on earth:  
  1. Jesus got his feet washed by a special lady (Mary)  
  2. His last meal was with His special friends  
  3. Jesus sung a special song to His Father one last time before heading for the Cross  
- One Last Consideration. With NEW songs being song in Heaven, Heaven will be a place of creativity, freshness, and delight.

NEXT WEEK: Matthew 26:31-46. We see Peter proclaim undying loyalty to His Savior, then we see our Savior’s human side as He prays three times for God to come up with a less painful way to die