

MONDAY, MONDAY

In 1966, the Mamas and Papas had a hit tune, "*Monday, Monday*". "Monday, Monday, can't trust that day..." It's about a spurned lover. A couple enjoys the weekend together, but on Monday the singer gets dumped "Monday, Monday couldn't guarantee - that Monday evening you would still be here with me."

Jesus too, had a wonderful weekend with the Jewish people. As He rode the donkey down the Mount of Olives, the crowds cheered Him as their Messiah.

But after Jesus cleansed the temple - after He embarrassed their scholars in a clash of Scriptural knowledge - after His harsh words about their hypocrisy - the leaders of Judaism were furious. The priests and elders decide to dump Jesus...

On Monday night, Jesus *makes a prediction*

and the priests *hatch a plot...*

In Matthew 26:2, Jesus tells His disciples again, "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."

Meanwhile, that same night, the chief priest gathered at Caiaphas' house.

Caiaphas was the high priest - and incidentally, his father and four brothers had a huge temple business. When Jesus cleansed the temple, He cut into their profits.

These priests plot to murder Jesus. Their only concern is to do it before the feast. They plan to do the dastardly deed while the people are preoccupied with their preparations for the Passover. Their timing will avoid an ugly disturbance.

"Monday, Monday can't trust that day." It was *the day the Jews rejected Jesus*.

Devotion Box - The ABCs Of Worship

On Monday night, Jesus gathers with His disciples when a woman approaches Him with a alabaster flask filled with a spendy perfume. It was probably an Indian import - possibly a family heirloom. It could've been worth a whole year's wages. John 12 identifies the woman as Lazarus' sister. Mary breaks the flask and pours the fragrance on the head of Jesus. It was a display of love and honor.

Mary's act stands out as an example of true worship. She teaches us the ABC's of worship...

The "A" is *adoration*. Her act was done out of love, not law - delight, not duty. Real worship is never forced or coerced. It flows freely from an adoring heart. The "B" is *brokenness*. Her fragrance filled the room and reached Jesus only after the flask was broken. Likewise, worship flows from a broken, humble life. The "C" is *costliness*. True worship costs the worshipper. It's extravagant. It'll cost you time, effort, image, ego, legitimate pleasures and activities, money.

Devotion Box - Do You Have A Worship Mentality?

The disciples were upset over Mary's offering to Jesus. They object in 26:9, "For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor." They're stuck in a utilitarian mind-set. They measure value with numbers - numbers of mouths fed, goods and services distributed, people helped.

Worship though, has no utilitarian value. Worship is like buying flowers for your wife. On a practical level, it's a terrible waste of money - but relationally, it's a valuable gesture. A worshipper doesn't think *pragmatically...* but *romantically*. It's not what can I get done, but how much love can I communicate. Mary is an example of a worship-mentality.

In 26:11, Jesus comes to Mary's defense. He says to His disciples, "For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always." There will always be ministry opportunities and hurting people. Ministry fills up whatever time you give it - and there's always more to do. The needs never end. But times with Jesus are priceless. Worship is the better part. It's a noble deed to feed the poor, but it can't compare with the opportunity to warm the heart of God.

John 12:6 identifies Judas as the chief critic of Mary's worship. Kent Hughes labels him, "The man who knew the price of everything and the value of nothing." Mary was a lover of God - a worshipper. Judas was not. This episode may've been what pushed Judas to conspire with the priests in verses 14-16. He betrays Jesus for 30 pieces of silver - the price of a slave. Judas becomes a traitor.

Devotion Box - How Do You Treat A Judas?

If I knew Judas was my betrayer, I would've made sure He got all the dirty work. Judas would've had permanent latrine duty. Cold food - the backseat on the bus - Judas would've been my whip'n boy. He would've been in the doghouse from the start. The disciples would've never asked, "Is it I?" Everyone would've known it had to be Judas.

Obviously, Jesus loved His enemy. He gave Judas every opportunity to repent.

THE LAST SUPPER

Realize the Passover Seder was a 1500 year old tradition. Every year at Passover the Jews commemorated their deliverance from Egypt.

The unleavened bread spoke of *faith* – the Hebrews believed they would leave the next day. They had no time to let the bread rise. The cup of wine represented *the blood of the Passover lamb* that was spread on the doorposts and thresholds. Because of the sacrificial blood, the death plague passed over their house.

What Jesus did that night was bold and revolutionary. Jesus took a 1500 year tradition and gave it radical new meaning. He held up the bread and said, "This is My body." He took the cup and said, "this is My blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

On that night in Egypt the deciding factor was not the morality or faithfulness of the people inside the house. When death came only one issue mattered: *Did the folks inside trust God enough to apply the blood?*

Likewise, the issue today is not my inherent goodness, or good deeds, but whether I trust in Jesus. He's our Passover Lamb. His blood, when applied to my heart, causes death to pass over.

Devotion Box - Pride And Misplaced Confidence

After supper, Jesus and His disciples head around the southern steps of the Temple, back up the Mount of Olives to a small grove of olive trees - called "*the Garden of Gethsemane*". But along the way, in 26:31, Jesus warns them...

"All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written (He quotes Zechariah 13:7): I will strike the Shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

Peter is first to object. In verse 33, He makes a haughty confession, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble." Pride goes before a fall. Be careful of self-confidence. Our only hope is *God in us* propping us up, propelling us onward. Have faith in His strength not your own!

In verse 34, Jesus warns Peter, "This night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Poor Peter will prove chicken before the rooster crows.

Jesus' warning should've humbled Peter. Instead he vows, in verse 35, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!"

Notice the next phrase... "And so said all the disciples." Peter was not the only one with misplaced confidence. All 12 disciples vowed to stand by Jesus to the point of death – yet later denied Him.

THE CONTENTS OF THE CUP

When they reach Gethsemane, the tension mounts. Jesus takes His inner circle of disciples - Peter, James, and John - and sets Himself apart to pray.

In verse 38, Jesus says, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." Jesus throws Himself face-first on the ground. He begins to pour out His soul to His Father in heaven. He prays in verse 39, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Hebrews 5:8 says Jesus, "offered up prayers and supplications with vehement cries and tears." The Master of every situation buckled under a heavy burden. Hebrews says Jesus, "learned obedience by the things which He suffered." You don't learn obedience hearing or talking about it, but by doing it. In Gethsemane, God Himself fought through the agony and was determined to be obedient.

Notice what Jesus prays in verse 39, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." Most people assume Jesus is asking

to escape the cross – the cup was the cross. I don't think so.

I believe the cup Jesus wanted to pass from Him was full of hurt and rejection. He just predicted that His disciples would deny Him. Judas is on his way to betray Him. In a few hours, His people, the Jews, will shout "*Crucify Him. Crucify Him.*"

Guys, it's one thing to die for people who appreciate the sacrifice - it's another thing to die for the people who hammer in the nails. I believe Jesus was tempted just as we're tempted – to stop loving – to build a resentment – to hold a grudge.

Jesus was born to die. He'd been telling His disciples for months that He was headed to Jerusalem to be crucified. According to John 17:1, He just referred to the cross as His moment of glory. Jesus isn't asking God to let Him avoid the cross. His cup is not the cross. He's asking God to remove the resentment He feels, so He can embrace the cross - and I believe God answered His prayer.

Devotion Box - The Spirit Is Willing, But The Flesh Is Weak

What an honor for Peter, James, and John to be present at this moment. I can't think of a holier occasion in the history of humanity. Don't you know the disciples are praying fervently, supporting Jesus in His struggle... *Not hardly...*

They're sound asleep – sawing logs – cutting z's – snoozing the night away. Jesus has to wake them up. He asks in verse 40, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Spiritually, we're transformed. I'm a new man, but I'm trapped in a corrupt body – that lets me down at times.

We've all been guilty of starting out in prayer and ending up asleep. I'm weak when I ought to be strong. I'm hyper-active when I need to slow down and wait. The flesh is a constant struggle. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Devotion Box - Peter Proved Chicken Before The Rooster Crowed

Peter is identified as a follower of Jesus by a servant girl – then another girl – and finally by a group of people... and each time he denied He knew the Lord. After the third denial, we're told in verse 74, "immediately a rooster crowed." He then remembered Jesus' words... and "he went out and wept bitterly."

Peter learns a lesson on trusting in God's strength, not his own. Vance Havner use to say, "The Lord had the strength and I had the weakness, so we teamed up! It was an unbeatable combination." Go it alone and you, too, will *weep bitterly*.

JESUS AND PILATE

In 19 AD, the Romans stripped the Jews of their right to execute capital punishment. To legally kill Jesus, the Jews had to get Pilate's permission.

The Sanhedrin knows they need to trump up charges that Pilate will see as a threat to Rome. Since the Roman Empire was ruled by an emperor, the Jews figure that Jesus' claim to be king will be perceived as a threat to Caesar.

Pilate is not so sure. Verse 14 says he marveled at Jesus' calm and poise. He was impressed that Jesus could stand before His accusers in silent confidence. Verse 18 tells us that Pilate could also see through the Jews. To him it was obvious. The real reason they wanted to execute Jesus was sheer envy.

Pilate faces a crisis. He wants to make political points with the Jews, but can't risk a riot. His job is to keep the peace. He knows Jesus is an innocent man - and his wife keeps whispering in his ear to have nothing to do with Him.

Suddenly, Pilate remembers an old custom. At the Passover the governor can release a prisoner to the Jews. Pilate stacks the deck to make sure they'll choose Jesus. He gives them the choice - Jesus, or a terrorist named "*Barabbas*".

Barabbas was the Jewish equivalent of Timothy McVey - a crazed radical who protested government action by bombing buildings and childcare centers. Pilate figured Jesus to be an easy pick. No one wanted Barabbas on the streets.

Somehow though, the Jewish leaders move among the crowd and persuade people to cry for Barabbas. Pilate still tries to avoid sentencing Jesus. We're told in 27:22, "Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more saying, "Let Him be crucified!"

In verse 24, Pilate unsuccessfully tries to wash his hands of the matter. Church historian, Eusebius, reports that Pilate was tormented by a guilty conscience the rest of his life. While in Rome, he eventually committed suicide.

And neither did the Jews fair well in the future. Jews who know history have regretted the cry in verse 25, "Let His blood be on us and on our children." For two millenniums, God has punished the Jews for their rejection of Je-

GOLGOTHA

Jesus was crucified at a place called "Golgotha" which means "*place of the skull*". It was an outcropping of rock north of Jerusalem that looked like a skull.

In verse 34, they offer Jesus a narcotic to deaden the pain, but He refused. Jesus' goal on the cross was to bear the full brunt of our sin and it's penalty.

Verse 35 says simply, "Then they crucified Him..." Look at Him now... His body hangs from the crossbeam. His legs are pushed up so His heels are just under His buttocks. The weight of His body is supported by the 7 inch iron spikes that have been driven into His hands. A single spike has been driven through both heels. Roman orator, Cicero, called crucifixion the cruelest and most frightening form of execution ever invented.

It makes you wonder, if Jesus had to die, why God didn't choose a more humane method - the gas chamber, or electric chair, or lethal injection? But God chose the cross because He realized what sin deserves. The cross speaks of the severity of man's sin and the sincerity of God's love. God loves you so much, Jesus was willing to go the distance - bear the full brunt of sin's penalty.

In verse 37, the Roman soldiers raised a placard. This was where they posted the victim's crimes. The sign over Jesus' head read, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews".

As if all this was not enough, the Jewish leaders had to come and pour salt in the wound. They stood at the foot of the cross and mocked Jesus unmercifully.

Jesus was crucified around 9:00 AM. From noon until 3:00, God turned off the lights. It was midnight at midday. Verse 45, "There was darkness over all the land."

About 3:00 PM, people heard the Suffering Savior utter a strange cry. Verse 46, "Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" That is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" The people who didn't speak Aramaic misunderstood Jesus. Aramaic was the common man's Hebrew. The aristocrats thought Jesus was calling for Elijah. He was quoting Psalm 22, a Messianic psalm, and calling for God's help.

I believe it was at that moment the sin of mankind was thrust on His shoulders. The man who had never sinned suddenly felt the sin of the world - the sin of the rapist and murderer and liar. The Son who had lived in perfect communion with His Father, from the eternity past, now felt the alienation that results from sin. The Savior screamed, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

After the scream, we're told Jesus "yielded up His spirit". That phrase, in verse 50, is strategic. Jesus' life was not taken from Him - it was willingly given to God.

Bible Scan - Matthew 26-28

Calvary Chapel

If you have questions on tonight's study email Pastor Sandy - sandyadams@calvarychapel.org
For back issues of Bible Scan study guides: www.calvarychapelstonemountain.com/biblescan.htm

Calvary Chapel Announcements - October 28, 2001 - Hallelujah Fest, "One Nation Under God", October 31, Games, Activities, Fun, come dressed as your favorite American hero: George Washington to NYC firemen (candy donations needed) - Men's World Series Fellowship, enjoy the game and great fellowship, Thursday November 1st - Prayer for our Pastors' Conference in Haiti, December 1-6 - Ladies' Christmas Tea, Saturday, December 8 - "The Present", Christmas Children's Program, December 16 - Next Bible Scan - November 4, 2001 - Mark 1-16

"He is not here; for He is risen, as He said Come see the place where the Lord lay." - Matthew 28:6

Bible Scan Memory Verse

DAY ONE

WHY THE STONE WAS ROLLED AWAY

Sunday morning is my favorite time of the week. It's the time we've set aside to gather with other believers and worship Jesus. But has it ever dawned on you why we worship on Sunday morning? Why not Friday night or Tuesday afternoon?

We worship Jesus on Sunday due to what happened on a Sunday morning 1969 years ago. Matthew 28:1 identifies that day as "the first day of the week" - *Sunday* - but it was more, it was *the first day of a new era*.

Mark 16:1 tells us that the Marys, "brought spices, that they might come and anoint Him." Apparently, the chief priests had paid closer attention to Jesus' words than His own disciples. They remembered His promise to rise the third day. The possibility never dawned on the Marys who came to dress a corpse.

When they arrive, the earth begins to quake. An angel appears and rolls back the stone. The soldiers freak and the woman are afraid. That's when the angel tells them, verse 5, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay..." The angel moved the stone, not to let Jesus out, but to let the women in to see for themselves.

Jesus is the only human who got a tomb on a time-share. He didn't need a permanent one - just 3 days occupancy. Jesus didn't *buy* a tomb, He *borrowed* a tomb. He's the only person who died, then rose, never to die again!

The birth of Christianity didn't rely on philosophical or metaphysical mumbo-jumbo - from the outset it was founded on a historical, verifiable, actual event - an event that occurred in time and space - the resurrection of Jesus! Secular historian, Thomas Arnold, wrote of Jesus' resurrection, "I have for many years studied the histories of other times... and I know of no one fact in the history of mankind which is proved by better and fuller evidence..."

Jesus rose. The stone rolled back. An angel invites *advocate and adversary* alike to look inside the tomb and see for themselves... examine the evidence. If He isn't alive, then junk Christianity as bunk. But if He's risen, He deserves your total allegiance. All Christianity hangs on the truth of the resurrection.

JOKING AROUND

A Jewish disciple of Jesus, a rich man named "Joseph of Arimathea", asked Pilate for the body of Jesus - then laid Jesus in his own new tomb. Legend has it his wife complained about him giving away their family burial spot. Joseph answered, "Honey, don't worry. Jesus only needs it for the weekend!"

THE GREAT COMMISSION

In 28:18-20, Jesus commissions His disciples, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Notice the target, task, and trust.

The target is not just our nation, or some nations, but all nations.

The task is not just to win converts, but to make disciples. That involves two things... *baptism*, which initiates folks into a body of believers.... *teaching*, which presents the Word of God and enables them to grow in their faith. You don't become a healthy Christian without proper fellowship and feeding.

And the *trust* is the authority and promise God has given us.

We hardly seem up to such a daunting commission. Imagine Jesus' first audience. He plans to reach the world with a group of frightened fishermen?... Men who've never been more than a couple of days from home? But He vested them with the authority of heaven and promised His presence - Jesus knows that will more than make up for their inadequacies. We have the *same provision* for the *same commission*. God's word to us... is God's word to them... "Go therefore..."