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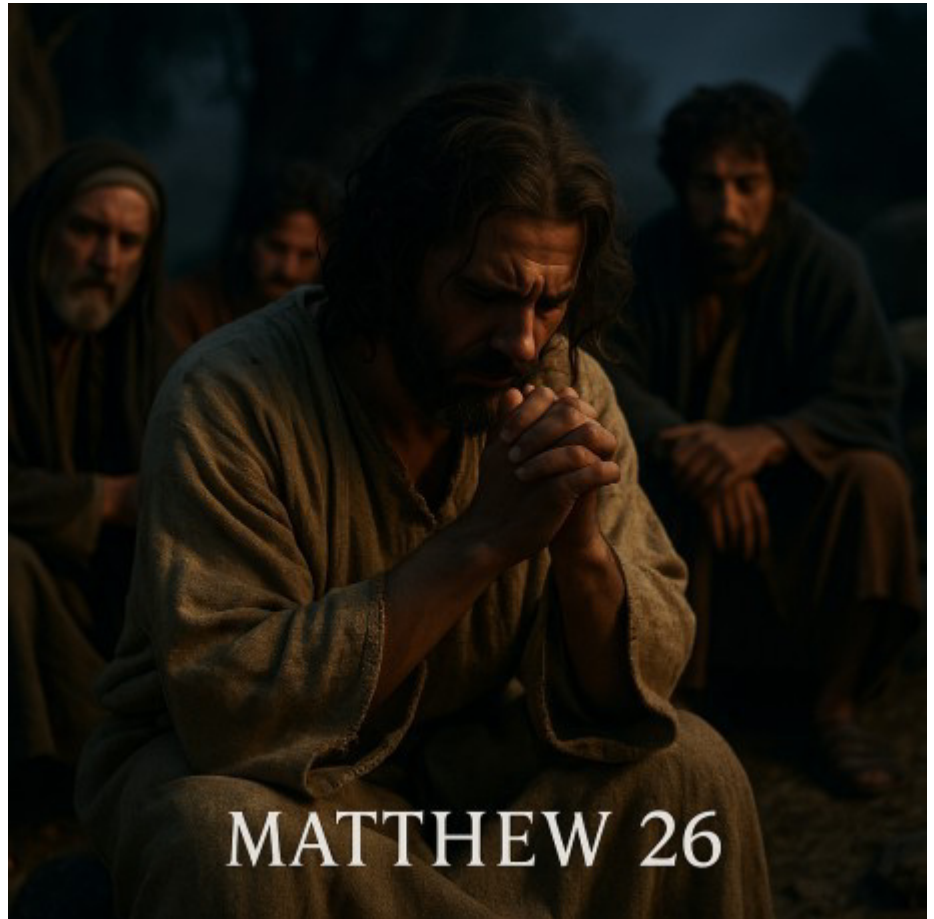
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By Dan Maines

Matthew 26

Matthew 26:1-5

When Jesus had finished all these words, He said to His disciples, "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be handed over for crucifixion." Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the courtyard of the high priest, named Caiaphas; and they plotted together to arrest Jesus covertly and kill Him. But they were saying, "Not during the

festival, otherwise a riot might occur among the people."

† Jesus clearly predicted the timing of His crucifixion, showing He was in control of events.

† The leaders plotted in secrecy, fearing the crowds, yet fulfilling prophecy.

† Josephus records the corruption and political fear of the priestly elite (Antiquities 20.9).

Matthew 26:6-13

Now when Jesus was in Bethany, at the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came to Him with an alabaster vial of very expensive perfume, and she poured it on His head as He reclined at the table. But the disciples were indignant when they saw this, and said, "Why this waste? For this perfume could have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor." But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you bothering the woman? For she has done a good deed for Me. For you always have the poor with you; but you do not always have Me. For when she poured this perfume on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial. Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told in memory of her."

† The anointing at Bethany symbolized preparation for His burial.

† The disciples misunderstood the act, but Jesus revealed its prophetic significance.

† This woman's devotion stands as a lasting testimony of faith.

Matthew 26:14-16

Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they set out for him thirty pieces of silver. And from then on he looked for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.

† Judas' betrayal fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy of thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13).

† His greed and disillusionment drove him to betray the Son of God.

† The leaders found in him a willing instrument of their evil plans.

Matthew 26:17-25

Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is near; I am keeping the Passover at your house with My disciples.'"" The disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve. And as they were eating, He said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me." Being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, "Surely it is not I, Lord?" And He answered, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. The Son of Man is going as it is written about Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself."

† Jesus arranged the Passover in divine timing, showing His sovereignty even in betrayal.

† Judas' duplicity was exposed, though he feigned innocence.

† Fulfillment of Scripture guided every detail of these events.

Matthew 26:26-30

Now while they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is being poured

out for many for forgiveness of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it with you new in My Father's kingdom." And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

† Jesus instituted the New Covenant in His body and blood.

† The bread and cup symbolized His sacrificial death, sealing forgiveness.

† The promise to drink anew in the kingdom pointed to its near fulfillment.

Matthew 26:31-35

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night; for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." But Peter responded and said to Him, "Even if they all fall away because of You, I will never fall away!" Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" All the disciples said the same thing as well.

† Jesus predicted their falling away, quoting Zechariah 13:7.

† Peter's pride blinded him to his weakness.

† The scattering of the disciples confirmed prophecy, but restoration followed.

Matthew 26:36-46

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." And He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with Him, and began to be grieved and distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me." And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will." And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping,

and He said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? Keep watching and praying, so that you do not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cup cannot pass away unless I drink from it, Your will be done." Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more. Then He came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let's go; behold, the one who is betraying Me is near!"

† In Gethsemane, Jesus submitted fully to the Father's will.

† His agony showed the weight of sin He would bear.

† The disciples' weakness highlighted the need for watchfulness and prayer.

How it applies to us today:

† Matthew 26 reveals Jesus' sovereignty, humility, and obedience as He prepared for the cross. The fulfilled perspective shows these events were the foundation of the New Covenant, sealed in His blood. For us today, this chapter calls us to faithfulness in trial, devotion like the woman at Bethany, and surrender like Christ in Gethsemane, knowing His victory has secured our place in the kingdom.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Antiquities 20.9

† Tacitus, Annals 15.44

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho 40, 117

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 4.10.1

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