



He is Risen Preparing For The Cross

The Good Shepherd
"I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd gives
His life for the sheep."

John 10:11

In the cross of Christ I glory
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

The hymn writer John Bowring

Introduction: Everything in the sacred story of God's redemptive plan does indeed center on the cross, apart from which no other revelation or work of God would have any ultimate value for sinful man. It is through the cross of Christ alone that the Lord has provided the way for sinners to be saved and united with Him, our holy God.

A. A Contrast of Purpose and Time *Matt 26:1-5*

1. God's Sovereign Purpose and Timing :1-2
 - a. *Delivered up*: Jesus voluntarily laid His life down *John 10:18*
 - b. No one could kill Jesus before His time and no one could stop or delay His death for their own purposes.
 - c. God's timing: Connected to the Passover as Jesus was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. *John 1:29*
2. Man's Purpose and Timing :3-5
 - a. Caiaphas [*depression*]: In every passage where he is mentioned he is seen as pursuing the destruction of Jesus.
 - b. Jesus was taken to Caiaphas *Matt 26:57-68*
 - c. Peter denies Jesus: The courtyard of Caiaphas *Matt 26:69-75*
 - d. Peter preaches to Caiaphas *Acts 4:5-22*

B. A Contrast of Love and Betrayal *Matt 26:6-16*

1. Loving Worship and Profound Love :6-13
 - a. Matthew presents a flashback to the previous Saturday (before the Triumphal Entry) when Jesus went to the home of Simon.
 - b. This is Mary the sister of Martha. She sits at His feet, anoints His feet and His head. *John 12:1-3; Mark 14:3-9*
 - c. She understood what the disciples did not: That Jesus had to die in order to be raised again. "She did it for my burial."
 - d. This is an act of 'loving worship' — what I can give to Jesus.
2. Betrayal and Profound Selfishness :14-16
 - a. In contrast to what Mary gave—Judas simply wanted all he could get.
 - b. Rather than staying with Jesus—Judas seeks out Caiaphas at the very moment Caiaphas is planning to arrest Jesus.
 - c. Mary gave **open worship** to Jesus while Judas gave **secret testimony** to those who would seek to kill Him.

***Do you know the Good Shepherd that
willingly gave up His life for you?***

Mathew 26:1-16

:1 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, *that* He said to His disciples,

:2 "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."

:3 Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

:4 and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill *Him*.

:5 But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."

:6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper,

:7 a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured *it* on His head as He sat *at the table*.

:8 But when His disciples saw *it*, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste?"

:9 For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to *the* poor."

:10 But when Jesus was aware of *it*, He said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me.

:11 For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always.

:12 For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did *it* for My burial.

:13 Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."

:14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests

:15 and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.

:16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.