

Wednesday: Jesus Foretells His Death



Introductory Question: ***Tell us about a time when you knew something was going to happen.***



Yesterday we read about how Jesus taught the people the importance of loving God and others through the parable of the Sheep and the Goats. Today we will continue the story in Matthew 26:1-16, when Jesus told His disciples some of the things that were about to happen to Him. (Incorporate your family's or group's answers to the Introductory Question – for example,) just as Cassie knew her family was going to move, and Jose knew there was going to be a storm, Jesus knew that He would be crucified during Passover (a festival that the Jews celebrated to remember how God had rescued them from slavery in Egypt).

Continue to tell the story from **Matthew 16:21-23** and **26:1-16**, including main points such as:

- Earlier, Jesus had explained to His disciples that He “must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life” (v. 16:21). In John’s account, Jesus said He told them these things because He had called them His friends (**John 15:15b**).
- It was hard for the disciples to believe that Jesus would suffer and die. Peter responded, “No, Lord! This shall never happen!” But Jesus told Peter, “You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns” (v. 16:23). Then Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me” (v. 16:24).
- The chief priests and the elders began planning how they could arrest Jesus secretly and kill Him (Matt. 26:3-4).
- While Jesus and His disciples were in Bethany, a woman poured expensive perfume on Jesus’ head. The disciples thought it was a waste and that the money should have been used to help the poor. But Jesus said, “She has done a beautiful thing to me...When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial” (v. 26:10-12).
- Then one of Jesus’ disciples, Judas Iscariot, secretly made a deal with the chief priests to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. And Judas watched for a chance to hand Jesus over.



Invite your family to spend a few minutes in Listening Prayer and Journaling: *As we’ve listened to these words from the Bible, God has been speaking to us through them. What is God telling you about: Himself, yourself, others, and what to do? You can talk to God about anything.*



When everyone begins to finish Journaling, give each person an opportunity to share what God has been speaking to them. After each person shares, pray for them.

KEY VERSE: Matthew 16:24

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.’”