**Matthew XVIII**

**Death, Burial and Resurrection: We Should Have Known It Was Coming**

Matthew 25:14-30 The Parable of the Talents.

v. 14-18 God has given us all various talents. God expects us to use them in service to the Kingdom. v. 21 In the kingdom of God, the reward of faithful service is:

1. Even more faithful service.

2. We hear those blessed words, “Well done, good and faithful servant! I LOVE that phrase.

Matthew 25:31-46 Sheep and Goats. Who will be in heaven?

Matthew 25:35-40 Those who served God. How? By serving and looking after his disciples especially, but also people generally.

The point: We will not be saved because we have believed the correct doctrines. We will be remain saved to the end because we act in this world as God would act in this world—by feeding the (physically or spiritually) hungry, by inviting in the (cultural or religious) stranger, by clothing the homeless, which includes helping them to be clothed with Christ in baptism, by helping the sick and visiting those in prisons, either literal or figurative. By making those phone calls to the weak or those not getting the attention they need.

If we do, God will say “Well done, good and faithful servant, come share my happiness in eternity.”

**The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. We Should Have Known It Was Coming**

Remember Matthew 5:17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them.

Matthew is the gospel which reveals Jesus through his fulfillment of the prophetic messianic expectation.

We already saw prophesied that he would be born of a virgin and be God-with-us.

We learned that God would call Jesus out of Egypt, as he called Joseph, Moses, and Israel out of Egypt.

That he would be the branch of Jesse, a Nazarene, a priest and a king

That he would be a humble king, entering Jerusalem on a donkey

All this comes to a head in his death, burial and resurrect. Matthew tells the story through fulfillment of prophecy, and I will do the same.

1. Matthew 26:1-2 Why must the Messiah be crucified on Passover?

Answer: Because Jesus is the perfect, unblemished Passover lamb, through whose death we escape death ourselves. And he is a perfect Passover lamb, through whose death we are able to escape from slavery to sin. He is the one who, like the Passover lamb, had none of his bones broken and who, like the Passover lamb, was to have his blood smeared on a wooden beam.

All of us were under a death sentence, as were the firstborn of both Israel and Egypt. Praise God that Jesus “passed over” our sins, but this had to happen on Passover.

2. Matthew 26:3-5 Humans are planning his death, but God had planned it long before they did.

Zechariah 12:10 “They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. Here there are references to the means of death of Jesus, to the fact that the one who will be pierced will be God-in-the-flesh, and that it will happen on Passover.

Jesus prophesied these events many times before Matthew 16:21, 17:22-23, 20;18-19)

3. Matthew 26:6-13

Note: John 12 This is Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus

v. 8 Why this waste? Jesus: Loving and serving me extravagantly is not a waste! Selling your home, quitting your job, moving to another city, going in a mission team may seem extravagant to unbelievers, but to Jesus it is a beautiful thing. Loving and serving the poor is an important priority in the Christian life, but serving Jesus takes precedence.

Q: What extravagant thing will you do for Jesus? What??????

Why is Jesus anointed with some very expensive perfume? v. 12 “to prepare me for burial.” (this expensive nard comes from India and is used to perfume the dead) To fufill the prophecy that the one who saves will be the anointed one (Daniel 9:24 “seventy sevens to finish transgression, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy One in Jerusalem) Messiah (meshiach) means Anointed One.

A little irony here: Normally they do not anoint a body BEFORE the burial! Jesus totally gets what is going on here.

4. Matthew 26:14-16 Why was Jesus betrayed for thirty pieces of silver? Zechariah 11:10-13. “The price at which they priced me.” The price of a slave at that time. Also the price of a slave in Exodus 21:32. Notice: “me” ie Messiah is God.

Jesus is sold for the price of a slave because he gave his life as a ransom for many from slavery. Matthew 20:27-28.

Also prophesied when Joseph was betrayed by his brothers for 20 pieces of silver, the approximate price of a slave at that time. Genesis 37:28

[Why did Judas do this? Had he concluded that Jesus was a false prophet? Not likely. My guess is that he felt Jesus was going in the wrong direction. He wanted Jesus to initiate an armed rebellion and he thought that his actions would precipitate such an action]

5. Matthew 26:17-30 Jesus initiates the process which will lead to his death. Jesus turns the seder/Passover meal into a foreshadow/prophecy of the Communion meal.

If you think it is a coincidence that Jesus was killed on the eve of the Passover, when the Passover lamb was killed, you are certainly wrong!

There are a lot of prophecies fulfilled here!

Note: the Passover meal normally would have a lamb, as well as bread, wine and bitter herbs, but this one had none because it was celebrated one night early. Why? Because Jesus, the Passover lamb had to be killed on 14 Nisan, which would normally precede the Passover. Jesus, the Passover lamb, had to be killed on the day of the Passover.

v. 18 “My appointed time has come.” There are two words for time in Greek. One means time, as in time of day or scheduled time. The other is *Kairos*, which means climactic moment, fullfillment moment or consummation. The time of consummation has come. All is going exactly as planned. Jesus is “the lamb who was slain from the creation of the world” (Revelation 13:8)

6. v. 21-23 “the one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me.” fulfills Psalm 41:9 “Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.”

[By the way, this is how we now do the Lord’s Supper in the MCC. We dip the bread together into the bowl.]

v. 24 All of this is “as it is written.” (including the method and means of betrayal)

7. v. 26 This bread is my body. In other words, I am the lamb for this particular meal, but remember that fact by eating the bread of the Lord’s Supper.

8. v. 27 Jesus took the cup. This was the third cup in the Seder (out of four total). It was called by the Jews the cup of redemption. Again, Jesus knows exactly what he is doing and what prophecies he is fulfilling.

v. 28 This is my blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. (Isaiah 53:12 “Because he poured out his life unto death…by which he “bore the sin of many…”)

This wine reminds us that “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” (Heb 9:22)

When we take the Lord’s Supper, we are remembering this event. We are in a sense eating Jesus. In this Passover the bread and wine take the part of the lamb. We are joining in, participating in, remembering the death of Jesus whose blood was shed on a wooden cross-beam so that God would pass over our sins.

9. Matthew 26:31-35, 56 Zechariah 13:7 Strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.

10. Matthew 26:36-44 A cry of the deepest imaginable emotional pain. Luke: sweat mixed with blood. Psalm 22:1 My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish.

Father: How can you forsake me like this. We see a deep, emotional, intimate relationship between Father and Son.

v. 45-46. Jesus is now ready for the rest of the prophecies to be fulfilled.

Summary:

Will you be like Mary at Bethany. The Passover Lamb is being prepared. He is ready to pour out his life for you. What will be your nard? What extravagant, crazy ridiculous thing will you do for the Lamb, for the Passover Lamb, for the Messiah?

Lord’s Supper: Look one more time at Isaiah 53:3-12

v. 4 He bore our suffering

v. 5 Pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities. By his wounds we are healed.

v. 6 The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

v. 11 justify many, bear their iniquities.

v. 12 He bore the sins of many

Matthew XIX The Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus Prophesied.

11. In Matthew 26:47-53 Jesus’ own prophecy that the one who dips his hand into the bowl with me will betray me is fulfilled.

Matthew 26:54-56 The Scriptures must be fulfilled. Which one? All of them, but especially Zech 13:7 (strike the sheep…) Jesus submitted to fulfilling Scripture, even when it meant horrible torture, shame and death. Judas thinks he is in control. The Jewish leaders think they are in control. They are wrong! Jesus is totally in control here.

12. Matthew 26:59-63, [also 27:13-14, as we will see] Isaiah 53:6-7 Like a sheep before her shearers….

13. Matthew 26:64 Psalm 110:1 The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet. Daniel 7:13-14 Jesus is the one who will come on the clouds of heaven.

14. Matthew 26:65-68 [also 27:27-31 as we will see] Isaiah 53:3 “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

[Matt 26:69-75 Peter unwittingly fulfills an earlier prophecy by Jesus]

15. Matthew 27:1-10 Why was the money thrown down and why was it used to buy a potter’s field?

The 30 pieces of silver thrown into the house of the Lord and used to by a potter’s field fulfills Zechariah 11:12-13. v. 13 “And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—the handsome price at which they priced ***me!*** So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord.”

[Aside: Note that both Judas and Peter denied Jesus. In fact, Peter called down curses on the name Jesus! What is the difference? Judas had worldly sorrow (27:5) and Peter had godly sorrow (26:75)]

Matthew 27:11-26 Here Jesus is silent before accusers again (esp. v. 14)

16. v. 22,23 Crucify, crucify. v. 25 Let his blood be on us and on our children. In Matt 27:35 Jesus is actually crucified. Psalm 22:16 They have pierced my hands and my feet.

v. 27-31 Jesus is despised and rejected again (Isaiah 53:3)

In Matthew 27:32-44 MANY prophecies are fulfilled.

17. Matthew 27:32 They took him outside the city to Golgotha. Fulfilling the prefigure in the sin offering. Leviticus 4:11-12 The body of the sin offering was taken outside the city/camp and burned to ashes.

18. Matthew 27:34 Wine mixed with gall fulfills Psalm 69:21 “They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.”

19. Matthew 27:35 Cast lots to divide his clothing Psalm 22:18 God used those who killed Jesus to fulfill this prophecy. (in John 19:23-24 we learn that they both divided into four piles and cast lots for his inner garment!)

20. Matthew 27:45-46 Psalm 22:1 My God, My God… His last words were the fulfillment of a prophecy.

21. Matthew 27:47-54 The curtain torn in two. All of this prefigured in the tabernacle and the temple. The way to God was now opened. Heb 10:19 We can now walk boldly into the Holy of Holies “by a new and living way through the curtain, that is his body.

22. Matthew 27:57-60 Isaiah 53:9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death. It was not normal for a victim of crucifixion to have an honorable burial, but Jesus was laid in the tomb of the wealthy Pharisee Joseph of Arimathea.

23. Matthew 28 As he had said, Jesus rose on the third day. This was prophesied by Jonah who spent three days in the giant fish and Isaac who Abraham received from the dead on the third day (Heb 11:19).