

**STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

**Lesson #160**

**Text: Matthew 26**

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

<sup>2</sup>*"You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."*

<sup>3</sup>*Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,*

<sup>4</sup>*and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him.*

<sup>5</sup>*But they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people."*

*Matthew 26:1-5*

1. The completion of another series of lessons for the Disciples
  - a) Warning about the religious leaders Matthew 23
  - b) Teaching about the End Times
  - c) Kingdom Parables related to the Return of the Lord Jesus Christ
2. Preparation for the last lap
  - a) The Lord sought to prepare His Disciples
  - b) He would soon be arrested and put to death
  - c) The Lord had to speak about the inevitable once again
  - d) The Disciples must be better prepared and instructed for the days ahead
3. The Disciples
  - a) They were not able to comprehend what the Lord had foretold

- b) They could not accept that their Teacher would be killed
- c) Sorrow had filled their hearts
- d) They struggled with this teaching of the Lord

### **THE PASSOVER**

1. Traditional and of historical significance
  - a) To celebrate the time when God passed over Egypt
  - b) The firstborn male of the children of Israel were spared from death
2. The Disciples would understand the Passover in greater depth when the Lord Himself becomes the Passover Lamb

### **THE ENEMIES IDENTIFIED**

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

Matthew 26:3

1. The chief priests
2. The scribes
3. The elders of the people
4. They were assembled in the home (palace) of the high priest
5. Annas was the high priest then
  - a) But he was deposed by the Romans
  - b) Caiaphas was then made the high priest
  - c) But many still regarded Annas as the high priest

### **THE PLOT TO KILL THE LORD JESUS**

1. The conspirators hated the Lord Jesus for many reasons:
  - a) They were outshone

- b) They were defeated in debates
- c) They were rebuked by the Lord publicly
- d) They were exposed as hypocrites

2. Their wicked plan

- a) To take Him by trickery
- b) To kill the Lord
- c) But not during the feast (Passover)

**LESSONS FOR US TO LEARN**

1. Suffering seems hard to comprehend
2. Death seems even harder to accept
3. The Disciples had to learn deeper lessons about suffering and death