

## **Matthew 26:17-29** **Discussion Guide**

### **Pray**

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

### **Read Scripture**

Read Matthew 26 together with a special focus on 26:17-29.

### **Pray**

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

**Open:** What are some of the pleasures (and treasures) of this world that tend to hold people back from pursuing complete allegiance and obedience to Jesus? Why?

**Context:** “We now come to the events toward which Matthew’s narrative has been steadily heading from the start. Leading up to Jesus’ death, we reach what the political and religious leaders do: they arrest, try, convict, flog, and crucify Jesus. We read about what his disciples do: Judas betrays him, Peter denies him, and all abandon him. We also learn what Jesus does: he predicts his death, explains its meaning, and willingly endures it. And then he defeats it. The end of Matthew’s gospel looks to the future, with the disciples’ commission to take the gospel to all nations.” (ESV Study Bible Notes)

### **Observing the Text:**

- 1) In Matthew 26:1-2 Jesus again clearly warns his disciples about what is to happen. What does he tell us about what is coming? How might Matthew intend for these verses to serve as a transition to the rest of the gospel?
- 2) As you read through Matthew 26, which character would you say demonstrates the most noteworthy worship of and complete commitment to Jesus? Why might this have been surprising to Matthew’s original readers?

### **Understanding the Text:**

- 3) Why is the woman’s display of love and worship for Jesus that we see at Bethany so striking (see 26:6-13)? How do the disciples respond to it—and why? How and why does Jesus correct them?
- 4) How do verses 14-16 provide a striking contrast to the account of the woman’s anointing that comes just before those verses? What do we learn about the disciples—and Judas—in Matthew 26:17-25?
- 5) While Matthew 26:26-29 is a brief section, it is incredibly rich theologically—it is here that Jesus establishes the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. How does this meal fulfill the picture of Passover? What is Jesus teaching about all that he will accomplish for God’s people through his death on the cross?

### **Bible Connections:**

- 6) In 1 Corinthians 11:23-29, Paul writes to the Corinthian church about the Lord’s Supper and about how to participate in it with proper reverence, humility, and worship. What abuses seem to be happening in Corinth, with regard to the Lord’s Supper? What truths about the sacrament does Paul affirm?

**Theological Connections:**

- 7) Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper includes the well-known words "This is my body" and "This is my blood." The Reformed tradition understands these words to be metaphorical—contrary to the Roman Catholic view of "transubstantiation," which teaches that the elements during Communion become the physical body and blood of Christ. But Reformers such as John Calvin also taught that Jesus's words imply that something deeper is at work than the elements merely being symbols that help us to remember his death. They taught that Jesus is "spiritually present" in the Lord's Supper. How does this view help us to maintain a proper seriousness regarding this sacrament that Jesus instituted before his death?

**Applying the Text:**

- 8) How should the woman's costly anointing of Jesus shape our own worship of and obedience to our Savior? What might be holding you back from serving him more sacrificially? What might you be believing about Jesus's worth or unworthiness?
- 9) How can your study of the institution of the Lord's Supper that takes place in this passage continue to grow your appreciation for and worshipful participation in this sacrament? Why is it important for this to be a regular part of corporate worship for the people of God?

**PRAY:**

- Take time thank God for sending Jesus to be the Promised Savior and King.
- Take time to thank Jesus for His great love for you that allowed Him to be broken, like bread, and to pour out His blood, like wine, for you.
- Ask God for grace to follow Him wholeheartedly and without reservation.
- Ask God for joy to help you pour out your life in costly worship of and obedience to Him.

NOTE: most questions taken from *Matthew: Making Disciples for the Nations Volume 2* by Jon Nielson and Daniel M. Doriani.