

**28 January 2024 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group**

**"The Plan to Kill Jesus Takes Shape" – Matthew 26:1-16**

1. What important time in the Jewish year was approaching (v. 2a)?
2. What distressing news did Jesus announce to His disciples (v. 2b)?
3. Who called a special meeting? What was the purpose of this meeting? (vv. 3-5)?
4. At whose house was Jesus when a woman did something to Jesus that His disciples very much did not like (v. 6)?
5. What did the woman do (v. 7)?
6. Why were Jesus' disciples furious when the woman did this (vv. 8-9)?
7. What was Jesus' response to the way the disciples reacted to what the woman did (vv. 10-11)?
8. How significant a matter did Jesus consider what this woman had done for Him to be (v. 13)?
9. Who conspired to betray Jesus? With whom did he conspire (v. 14)?
10. How much was this person paid for helping deliver Jesus to the authorities (v. 15)?
11. Why are the narratives of Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion often called "The Passion" accounts?
12. If the leaders of Israel truly thought that Jesus was leading the nation into peril, how can they be held liable for arresting Jesus since they were trying to protect the people from harm?
13. If the authorities of Israel were preordained by God to do what they did, can they legitimately be held responsible for doing something wrong?
14. Does God require you to respect and honor bad leaders? What Scriptures would you use to support your view?
15. What does bad leadership in a nation usually indicate on a spiritual level?
16. Do you think the disciples who saw what the woman did to Jesus were being unfair? Is it wrong to be economical and frugal when serving Christ and His Church? How would you determine if an expense for the purpose of the Gospel is justified or not?
17. Have you ever thought that something you considered giving to the Lord's work might be excessive or perhaps even a waste?
18. How might the story of this woman's act be presented today when presenting the Gospel to others? Why would you include it?
19. Do you think history has been too hard on Judas for what he did when he joined with Israel's leaders to take Jesus into custody? Why or why not?
20. Judas was preordained to conspire in delivering Jesus over to the authorities, but what do you suppose might have been his human motives in doing so? Would any of these human motives justify or mitigate his actions?