

# DAY 3-TRUTH: JESUS WAS BETRAYED AND REJECTED

**Jesus Experienced Betrayal and Rejection (Psalm 41:9; Isaiah 53:3,7; John 13; 18:1–19:16)**

As Bible study teachers, we often prefer nice, neat Bible passages with limited verses that contain an easy-to-tell story. However, sometimes we miss the amazing connections God has provided in His Word when we try to keep things short and sweet. Today's passages cover a lot, but when we sift through all those details, there are treasures to be found. Begin by reading all of the verses referenced, then we can focus on a few truths we discover.

The specifics of prophecy are amazing when you think about it. God spoke through prophets that His Promised One would experience a close friend (the meaning of "one who takes or eats bread with me") who would turn against Him. Also, when He was brought before His accusers there would come a time when the Messiah would not open His mouth in His own defense. (Fulfilled in John 19:9.)

In the John passage, Jesus sat at the table with His twelve handpicked disciples. All the elements of the Passover meal were before them. The group dynamics were typical of a close-knit group. There had been evidence of internal competition, of groups within the group, and of moments of complete obedience. They had witnessed miracles and signs and heard Kingdom truths from the lips of the King of Kings. They had learned much but failed to understand much more. Within that group, Judas was apparently trusted so much that he was the keeper of the group's treasury.

Jesus took what was before them and instituted a new ordinance, the Lord's Supper. He knew they did not understand now, but they would soon understand. He also demonstrated true servant leadership by washing the disciples' feet. These two monumental demonstrations were some of the final instructions Jesus knew He was leaving with His followers.

Jesus and His disciples left the table and traveled to the Garden of Gethsemane. Judas had already departed for reasons unknown to the other disciples.

Many of us have experienced a season when we felt rejected and mistreated. However, can any of it compare to the long night of trials and rejection Jesus experienced? While in the garden, three of His closest followers could not stay awake and pray with Him because they failed to realize the gravity of the moment. One from His select circle of twelve opted to collect 30 pieces of silver in exchange for betraying Him. Jesus was first led before Annas (the former high priest) then before Caiaphas (the current high priest), yet neither one of the Jewish religious leaders was willing to see the truth. Finally after standing before two Jewish courts, Jesus was taken before Pilate (the Roman court). Jew and Gentile alike played a part in the rejection and execution of the Messiah.

The overwhelming truth of today's Bible study is that Jesus knew everything that would take place and He still followed God's plan. All of the places are real. All of the people really existed. And, most importantly, all of the events actually happened. Jesus, God's Son, came to earth, and was betrayed and rejected for our sins. He fulfilled the Father's promises. Jesus became the ransom for us.

## **Facts and Artifacts**

In addition to connecting Old Testament prophecies with New Testament fulfillments, this week of VBS links each day to real archaeological finds that further emphasize the reality of what we read in the Bible.

### **Today's artifact: Steps to Caiaphas' House**

A path of stone steps at one time descended from Mount Zion to the Kidron Valley. Jesus and His disciples would have most likely followed this path to Gethsemane and, later, back up to Caiaphas' house.

## **Think About It**

Have you ever pondered the long night of trials and struggle Jesus experienced? Does this impact your feelings about Jesus' sacrificial death for our sins?