

A BEAUTIFUL THING

Matthew 26:1-16

Key Verse: 26:10

1. Read verse 1-2. What had Jesus been saying to his disciples? What did he now tell them? Had he told them this before? (16:21; 20:19) How was the Passover related to Jesus' crucifixion? Why does he refer to himself as the "Son of Man?"

2. Read verses 3-5. Where and why did the chief priests and elders assemble? What did they want to do? Why? Why were they so secretive?

3. Read verses 6-7. Where was Jesus? What surprising thing happened while he was reclining at the table? What shows the costliness of the woman's action? Why do you think she did this? (Lk 7:47,50; Jn 12:1-7)

4. Read verses 8-9. Why were the disciples indignant? What was their idea about how to use things of material value? What was right/wrong about their idea? What does this show about their value system?

5. Read verse 10-11. What did Jesus say about the woman's action? Why was what she did beautiful? What did Jesus teach his disciples about spiritual priorities? (11)

6. Read verses 12-13. What deeper meaning did Jesus see in the woman's action? (12) How is it a reflection of Jesus' own pouring out of his life? What did Jesus teach about his world mission plan? Why would this act become a part of gospel history?

7. Read verses 14-16. Who was Judas Iscariot? In what way is his life and attitude a contradiction? Why did he go to the chief priests? What was the deal he made with them? What do you think his motive (s) was? What can we learn from the contrasts in this passage?