

# Why did they kill Jesus?

## 1- IT STARTED WHEN HE CLAIMED HE WAS GOD'S SON AT THE FEAST OF DEDICATION (HANUKKAH) IN JOHN 10:14-42:

*“I am the good shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me --- just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father --- and I lay down My life for the sheep. I have other sheep (Gentiles) that are not of this flock (Jews). I must bring them also. They too will listen to My voice and there shall be one flock and one shepherd (Romans 11:25,26). the reason My Father loves Me is that I lay down My life --- only to take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have the authority to take it up again (rise from the dead). This command I received from My Father.*

*At these words the Jews were again divided. Many of them said, ‘He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to Him?’*

*But others said, ‘These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. How can a demon open the eyes of the blind? (Which He had done previously in Chapter 9).*

*Then came the Feast of Dedication (Hanukkah) at Jerusalem.”*

**Hanukkah, or the Festival of Lights, or Dedication**, took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the Jewish month, Kislev, and lasts for eight nights into the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, Tevet (In 2011, it began at sundown on December 20<sup>th</sup>, and ended at sundown on December 28<sup>th</sup>). It celebrates the Maccabees successful rebellion against Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who in 175 BC, looted the Temple, massacred Jews, and outlawed Judaism. In 167 BC, he ordered an altar to Zeus erected in the Temple. A priest named Mattathias, and his five sons led a rebellion against Antiochus, and by 165 BC, Mattathias died; but his sons (led by their brother, Judah Maccabee) liberated and rededicated the Temple. Judah ordered the Temple to be cleansed, a new altar to be built, and new Holy vessels to be made. According to the Talmud, olive oil was needed for the Menorah in the Temple, which was required to burn throughout the night, every night. But there was only enough oil to burn for one day. Miraculously, it burned for eight days, the time needed to prepare a fresh supply of oil for the Menorah. An eight day festival was declared by Judah to commemorate this miracle. **It is interesting that Jesus announced that He was the Son of God (God's gift to the Jews) during this Feast that was being celebrated at His Father's House (Temple) with the lighting of candles --- because this is also the time when most Christians celebrate the birthday of Christ!**

*“It was winter, and Jesus was in the Temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews gathered around Him, saying, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.’*

*Jesus answered, ‘I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in My Father's Name speak for Me, but you do not believe because you are not My sheep. My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has*

*given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and the Father are one.*

*Again the Jews picked up stones to stone Him, but Jesus said to them, 'I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone Me?'*

*'We are not stoning you for any of these,' replied the Jews, 'but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.'*

*Jesus answered them, 'Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are gods'?"*

Jesus is quoting **Psalm 82:6**. King David is speaking of **judges, who were commissioned by God, to represent God as "gods" of His people**. This came from the days of Moses in **Exodus 21:1-6**, which tells us how the Hebrew servant was set free in the seventh year. **Verse 6** says: "*Then his master shall bring him to the judges.*" The Hebrew word here in **verse 6** for "judges," is "*elohim*," which is literally translated "*gods*." It was used again in **Exodus 22:9,28**, showing that God spoke through these men, who represented Him. Jesus was telling these people (who accused Him of claiming to be God), that if the Old Testament Law says that men who were commissioned by God to represent and speak for Him to His people were called "*gods*;" then, why can't He speak this way about Himself? For He also was commissioned by God to speak for Him as the Judge for His people. Remember, according to **Matthew 1:23**: "*The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel --- which means, 'God with us'.*" **Could He be reminding them of this fact during the time people around the world would celebrate not only Hanukkah, but His birthday?**

*"If he (King David) called them 'gods,' to whom the Word of God came --- and the Scripture cannot be broken --- what about the One whom the Father set apart as His very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse Me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? Do not believe Me unless I do what My Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe Me, believe the miracles, that you may learn and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.'* Again they tried to seize Him, but He escaped from their grasp.

*Then Jesus went back across the Jordan to the place where John (the Baptist) had been baptizing in the early days (in Aenon near Salim, according to **John 3:22,23**). Here He stayed and many people came to Him. They said, 'Though John never performed a miraculous sign, all that John said about this man was true.'* And in that place many believed in Jesus."

## **2- JESUS RAISED LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD, PROVING HE WAS GOD'S SON. JOHN 11:1-57:**

*"Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped His feet with her hair (later in **Chapter 12**). So the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is sick.'*

*When He heard this, Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it'.*"

**John 7:39** says the Holy Spirit had not yet come to anyone (**Acts 2**) because **Jesus had not yet been glorified**. **John 12:23** says the hour for Jesus to be glorified was the hour of His crucifixion. **John 12:16** tells us the disciples remembered these things after His death, burial and resurrection. So here in **John 11:4**, He is referring to the fact that He knew that when He raised Lazarus from the dead, it would seal His doom, as we will read in **verses 45-53**.

*"Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was two more days.*

*Then He said to His disciples, 'Let us go back to Judea.'*

*'But Rabbi,' they said, 'a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?'*

*Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light'.*"

**Jesus is the light, according to John 1:4-12**. His disciples would not have to worry as long as He was there to show them the way. But a time of darkness was coming when He (the Light) would be taken from them (as we will read in **Chapter 12:35,36**). After He was taken from the world, they would have to decide for themselves whether or not to continue to follow the Light.

*"After He had said this, He went on to tell them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.'*

*His disciples replied, 'Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.' Jesus had been speaking of his death, but His disciples thought He meant natural sleep.*

*So then He told them plainly. 'Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.'*

*Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with Him.'*

*On His arrival, Jesus found that **Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days**."*

The Jews believed that the **spirit of a dead person would hover above the body for three days**, and then, if not revived, would go on to the spirit world. This is why Jesus waited for four days. The body was anointed with spices and ointments, and then clothed in a "traveling dress." **This is described for you later in Chapter 19:39-40 and 20:6,7; when Jesus was buried**. Then they would take the body to the tomb, and everyone would follow. The women led the way because her first sin brought death into the world (**Genesis 3**). As soon as the body was carried out of the

house, all the furniture was reversed and the mourners sat on the ground. On return from the tomb, a meal was served by the family and friends of bread, hard boiled eggs and lentils (small beans), which (because they were round) symbolized life as always rolling over to death. Deep mourning lasted seven days (of which the first three were days of weeping). During these days you couldn't anoint, bathe, study, work, or put on shoes. After this first week, there were 30 days of lighter mourning.

*“Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him, but Mary stayed home.*

*‘Lord,’ Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.’*

*Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’*

*Martha answered, ‘I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day’.*”

#### **SEE MY STUDY ON “WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE?”**

*“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?’*

*‘Yes, Lord,’ she told Him, ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world’.*”

#### **SEE MY STUDY ON “CONFESSION WILL SAVE YOU”**

*“And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. ‘The Teacher is here,’ she said, ‘and is asking for you.’ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met Him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.”*

It was custom, that during the **first week of mourning**, everyone stayed at the house, and then went to weep at the tomb whenever possible. The crowd obviously thought when Mary got up, it was time to go and weep at the tomb with her again.

*“When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw Him, she fell at His feet and said, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’*

*When Jesus saw her **weeping** (a loud cry), and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was **deeply moved** (from the Greek word, “*embrimasthai*,” which is used of a horse snorting) and troubled. ‘Where have you laid him?’ He asked.’*

*‘Come and see, Lord,’ they replied.*

*Jesus wept* (silent tears).  
Then the Jews said, 'See, how He loved him!'  
But some of them said, 'Could not He who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'  
Jesus, once **more deeply moved** (loud groan or choking release of air like the snorting of a horse), **came to the tomb**. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance."

**Palestinian tombs** were either a natural cave, or hewn out of a rock. There was an entrance in which the owner was first laid. Beyond that, was a chamber (six feet long, nine feet wide, and 10 feet high). There were usually eight shelves cut in the rock (three on each side and two on the wall facing the entrance). The tomb had no door, but in the base of the opening was a groove in which a great stone was rolled across to seal the tomb.

"Take away the stone,' He said.  
'But Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there **four days**.'

Remember, the Jews believed that after three days, the spirit no longer hovered over the body, and went on to the spirit world.

Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?'

So they took away the stone. then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard Me. I knew that you always hear Me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent Me.'

When He had said this, Jesus called out in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes, and let him go.'

### **3- JESUS THREATENED THE RELIGIOUS LEADER'S POWER & AUTHORITY. JOHN 11:45-57:**

**"Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in Him.** But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. 'What are we accomplishing?' they asked. 'Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. **If we let Him go on like this, everyone will put his trust in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our Nation.**'

The **Sanhedrin** was the Jewish Supreme Court. It was made up of no less than 70 members (including Scribes, Rabbis, Pharisees, Priests,

Sadducees, and Elders. They met in the Hall of Hewn Stone in the Temple Court, and the High Priest of that year presided. The Romans allowed this Sanhedrin to run the Jewish affairs up to the point of capital punishment, as long as they kept everyone obedient to Roman law. If a rebellion of any kind occurred, they would lose their authority and power.

*“Then one of them, named **Caiaphas**, who was High Priest that year, spoke up, ‘You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than the whole nation perish.’*

Caiaphas was the son-in-law of Annas, the true High Priest (for life, according to the Law). The Romans, however, appointed different men every year to be High Priest, in order not to allow any one man to gain too much power. The man who was most loyal to the Roman government was appointed. Caiaphas was also a Sadducee (who did not believe in life after death as did the Pharisees).

*“He did not say this on his own, but as High Priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, and not only that nation, but also for the scattered children of God (Gentiles), to bring them together and make them one.”*

This is what Jesus said at the beginning of this study (**John 10:16**). And, it was about to happen after His death, burial and resurrection, on the Day of Pentecost, according to **Acts 2:38,39**, for both the Jews, and those who were “*far off*” --- meaning the Gentiles. For, according to **Romans 11:17-26**, the Lord will wait for His return, “*...until the full number of Gentiles come in. And so all Israel will be saved...*”

*“So, from that day on they plotted to take His life.*

*Therefore Jesus no longer moved about publicly among the Jews. Instead, He withdrew to a region near the desert, to a village called Ephraim, where He stayed with His disciples.”*

How did Jesus find out about the plot? Remember **John 3**? Nicodemus, the Pharisee, and member of the Sanhedrin, often visited Jesus at night in secret. **John 19:38-42** tells us he and Joseph (both secretly Christians) buried Jesus' body after His crucifixion.

*“When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their **ceremonial cleansing before the Passover** (**This will be covered later in point #6, after Jesus clears the Temple**). They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple area they asked one another, ‘What do you think? Isn't He coming to the Feast at all?’ But the chief priests and Pharisees had given orders that if anyone found out where Jesus was, he should report it so that they might arrest Him.”*

#### **4- JESUS EXPOSED & EMBARRASSED JUDAS.**

**JOHN 12:11, MATTHEW 26:6:**

*“Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honor (Matthew 26:6 tells us it was at the home of Simon the Leper). Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus’ feet, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance.*

*But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray Him, objected, ‘Why wasn’t this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year’s wages.’ He did not say this because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put in it.*

*‘Leave her alone,’ Jesus replied. ‘It was meant that she should save this perfume (Remember, just a short while earlier, she had used some of it to anoint her brother Lazarus’ body when he died) for the day of My burial. You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have Me.*

*Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of Him, but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in Him.”*

#### **5- JESUS IS MORE POPULAR THAN ANY OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN JERUSALEM (PALM SUNDAY).**

**SEE JOHN 12:12-36, MATTHEW 21:1-11, LUKE 19:28-44:**

*“The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem.”*

*Matthew 21:1 continues: “As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, ‘Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to Me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.’*

*This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet (Zechariah 9:9): ‘Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey (which meant he came in peace), on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’*

*The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds went ahead of Him and those that followed shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David (“Hosanna” is the Hebrew word, meaning “save, we pray.”)!’*

*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Hosanna in the highest!’*

*When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’*

*The crowds answered, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.'*  
(Notice they still did not believe He was the Son of God.)

As **Luke 19:41** adds: “As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it and said, ‘If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace --- but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.’”

**Then John concludes:** “Now the crowd that was with Him had continued to spread the word that He had called Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead. Many people, because they had heard that He had given this miraculous sign, went out to meet Him. So the Pharisees said to one another, ‘See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after Him!’”

## **6- JESUS EXPOSED THE RELIGIOUS LEADER’S MONEY-MAKING SCAM. LUKE 19:45-20:8; MATTHEW 21:12-14**

*“Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the benches of those selling doves. ‘It is written,’ He said to them, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a ‘den of robbers’ (Jeremiah 7:11).”*

**This was the second time Jesus cleared the Temple.** The first was at the beginning of His ministry at least three years earlier, as recorded in **John 2:12-16**. The temple area where Jesus drove out the animals and money-changers, was in the outer court of the Temple (or, the Court of the Gentiles). **The Temple consisted of a series of courts leading up to the Temple itself:** First, you came to the Court of the Gentiles; Second, the Court of the Women; Third, the Court of the Israelites; and Fourth, the Court of the Priests.

**Why did He do this?** All Jews over 19 years of age had to pay the annual temple tax (to pay for the operational expenses of the daily sacrifices, etc.). The tax was half a shekel, or 6p (4p was a days wage). At this time there were coins from Palestine, Greece, Egypt, Tyre, Rome, and Sidon --- but, the temple tax had to be paid in Galilean shekels or shekels of the Sanctuary (Jewish coins). All other coins were unclean and therefore couldn’t be used to pay a debt to God! So, you don’t have the right coin to pay the temple tax that you owe God? No problem --- As soon as you entered the outer Court of the Gentiles, you were welcomed with the money-changers tables. First, for the modest fee of 1p, they would exchange your unclean money into clean Galilean shekels or shekels of the Sanctuary, so you could buy the half-shekel temple coins you needed.



HOW DOES THAT WORK? Let's say 1p = \$10, and you came to the tax table to pay your annual half-shekel temple tax with your unclean American dollars. You have four people in your family that are over 19, and owe a half-shekel each. A half-shekel is worth 6p or \$60. Since you need four of them, you plop down \$240. First, the money-changer charges you an additional 1p, or \$10 to change your unclean dollars into clean Galilean shekels. Then, he takes your \$240 worth of clean shekels, and charges you an additional 1p (\$10) for every half-shekel you'll need. And, since you need four, you will need to pay an additional 4p or \$40.

It has now cost you \$290 to pay your \$240 annual temple tax, or debt to God --- yes, they robbed you of \$50!

BUT, IT GETS WORSE! Now that you've paid your annual temple tax, you must make your annual sin sacrifice for you and your family (you do want all your sins forgiven, don't you?). For this, you'll need a year old unblemished goat or lamb; or, if you're poor (and can prove it), a pair of doves. And, in addition to your annual sin sacrifice, don't forget the lamb or goat for this week's Passover (that's right, you'll need two of them!).

**So, where will you get the animals?** We'll bring it with us and save some money. NOT SO FAST! First, you have to get the animals inspected to see if they are indeed unblemished, and worthy to be a sacrifice to God. And who can do that for you? You guessed it! For a fee of just 1p (\$10), they had temple inspectors right there in the temple area next to the money-changers (what are the chances?!). But, what if the inspectors didn't clear your animals (AND THEY WON'T!)? No problem --- they just happened to have all the unblemished animals you need right there in the same outer Court of the Gentiles (watch your feet!). It was said that a pair of doves could be bought outside the temple area for just 4p (\$40). Inside the temple area? 75p (\$750)! I TOLD YOU TO WATCH WHERE YOU WERE STEPPING!

So, even if you were poor and had to settle for the pair of doves, you still had to go back to the money-changers and give them 75p or \$750. Then you had to pay 1p or \$10 to exchange your unclean dollars into clean shekels. Then 1p or \$10 for every half-shekel you'll need to pay for the doves (you're going to need 12 half-shekels + 3p), which will add another \$130 to your \$750 pair of doves, making your grand total: \$880! THAT'S RIGHT, YOU JUST GOT ROBBED AGAIN OF \$880! AND REMEMBER, YOU STILL HAVEN'T BOUGHT YOUR FAMILY'S PASSOVER LAMB...AND THEN HAD YOUR UNBLEMISHED PASSOVER GOAT OR LAMB INSPECTED YET...AND THEY DON'T TAKE VISA OR MASTERCARD!

With the hundreds of thousands of people coming to Jerusalem for the Passover every year; and every family needing all these inspected unblemished animals, in addition to their annual temple tax for each member of their family over the age of 19 --- HOW MANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WERE THESE RELIGIOUS LEADERS ROBBING GOD'S PEOPLE OUT OF? AND, WHEN JESUS RAN THEM ALL OUT OF THE TEMPLE AREA --- HOW MUCH MONEY DID THESE RELIGIOUS LEADERS LOSE? Still wondering why they killed Jesus?

### **SEE MY STUDY ON "DOES GOD WANT ME TO BE RICH?"**

**So, why didn't they just kill Him? Matthew goes on to say:** *"The blind and the lame came to Him at the Temple, and He healed them."*

**Then Luke adds:** *"Every day He was teaching at the Temple. but the chief priests, the teachers of the Law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill Him. Yet they could not find a way to do it, because all the people hung on His words."*

*One day as He was teaching the people in the temple courts and preaching the Gospel, the chief priests and the teachers of the Law, together with the elders, came up to Him. 'Tell us by what authority you are doing these things,' they said. 'Who gave you this authority?'*

*He replied, 'I will also ask you a question. Tell Me, John's baptism --- was it from Heaven, or from men?'*

*They discussed it among themselves and said, 'If we say, 'From Heaven,' He will ask, 'Why didn't you believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' all the people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John was a prophet.'*

*So they answered, 'We don't know where it was from.'*

*Jesus said, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.'*

### **7- THEN JESUS PREACHED TO THESE CROWDS AGAINST THE CHIEF PRIESTS, PHARISEES AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS:**

- (1) The Parable of the Two Sons (*Matthew 21:28-32*)
- (2) The Parable of the Tenants (*Matthew 21:33-44 & Luke 20:9-19*)
- (3) The Parable of the Wedding Banquet (*Matthew 22:1-14*)
- (4) The Marriage at the Resurrection (*Matthew 22:23-33 & Luke 20:27-40*)
- (5) The Greatest Commandment (*Matthew 22:34-39*)
- (6) Whose Son is the Christ (*Matthew 22:41-46 & Luke 20:41-47*)
- (7) The Seven Woes against the teachers of the Law and Pharisees (*Matthew 23*)
- (8) Signs of the End of the Age (*Matthew 24 & Luke 21:5-38*)
- (9) The Parable of the Ten Virgins (*Matthew 25:1-13*)
- (10) The Parable of the Talents (*Matthew 25:14-30*)
- (11) The Parable of the Sheep & Goats (*Matthew 25:31-46*)

### **SEE MY STUDY ON "SOME SHEEP HAVE FANGS"**

**And, as Matthew 21:45-46 says:** “When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew He was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest Him, **but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that He was a prophet.**”

**So, as Matthew 22:15-21 tells us:** “Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap Him in His words. They sent their disciples to Him along with the **Herodians.**”

**Why the Herodians?** These men were loyal to the family of Herod the Great (the king who tried to kill Jesus when the wise men told him He was born in Bethlehem (**Matthew 2**). At this time, Herod’s son, Herod Antipas, was king. This is the same man who had John the Baptist put to death (**Mark 6:17-29**), and later, will mock Jesus (**Luke 23:6**). The Herodians hated the Jews, yet were willing to help them get rid of Jesus (for He was a threat to their king too). All they needed to do was to trap Jesus into some sort of treason against Caesar.

*‘Teacher,’ they said, ‘we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?’*

*But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, ‘You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap Me? Show Me the coin used for paying the tax’ (WE CERTAINLY KNOW THE COIN USED TO PAY THE JEWISH TEMPLE TAX!). They brought Him a denarius, and He asked them, ‘Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?’*

*‘Caesar’s,’ they replied.*

*Then He said to them, ‘Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.’*

*When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left Him and went away.”*

**And then Matthew 26:1-5 concludes:** “When Jesus had finished saying all these things, He said to His disciples, ‘As you know, the Passover is two days away --- and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.’

*Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the High Priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and they plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill Him. ‘But not during the feast,’ they said, ‘or there may be a riot among the people.’”*

**What “sly way” did they have in mind to arrest Jesus? Matthew 26:14:** “Then one of the Twelve --- the one called **Judas Iscariot** --- went to the chief priests and asked, ‘What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?’ So they counted out for him thirty silver coins. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand Him over.”

## **8- THE CROWDS BELIEVED HE WAS A PROPHET, BUT JESUS CONLDN’T CONVINCe THEM THAT HE WAS THE CHRIST. JOHN 12:20-50:**

*“Now there were some Greeks (Gentiles) among those who went up to worship*

at the Feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. 'Sir,' They said, 'we would like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be. My father will honor the one who serves Me.

Now My heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your Name!'

Then a voice came from Heaven, 'I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.' The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to Him.

Jesus said, 'This voice was for your benefit, not Mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.' He said this to show the kind of death He was going to die (crucifixion).

The crowd spoke up, 'We have heard from the Law that the Christ will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up (crucified)?' Who is this 'Son of Man?'

Then Jesus told them, 'You are going to have the Light just a little longer. Walk while you have the Light, before darkness overtakes you (He knew they would turn against Him). The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. Put your trust in the Light while you have it, so that you may become sons of the Light.' When He had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid Himself from them."

**Why did He go into hiding? Verse 37:** "Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence (raised the dead, healed the sick, and even had God speak audibly to them), they still would not believe in Him (that He was the Christ),"

**Yet, verses 42-50 add:** "Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in Him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue (Church); for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

Then Jesus cried out, 'When a man believes in Me, he does not believe in Me only, but in the One who sent Me. When he looks at Me, he sees the One who sent Me. I have come into the world as a Light, so that no one who believes in Me should stay in the darkness.'

**He is referring to people like Nicodemus;** who, according to *John 3*, came to visit Him only at night, because he was a Pharisee, and a member of the Sanhedrin, and was afraid they would put him out of the synagogue. It is to be noted though, that later, after Jesus is killed, he comes into the Light (exposing himself to be a Christian), and helps bury Jesus' body (*John 19:38-42*).

**Remember I John 1:5-7:** *“God is Light; in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with Him, yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not put the Truth (Christ’s Words) into practice. But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from every sin.”*

**For as Jesus continues in verse 47:** *“As for the person who hears My words but does not keep them. I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. **There is a Judge for the one who rejects Me and does not accept My Words; that very Word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.** For I did not speak of My own accord, but the Father who sent Me commanded Me what to say and how to say it. I know that His command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told Me to say.”*

READ MY STUDY ON **“WHEN WE CAN AND CANNOT JUDGE”**

**9- NOW READ “THE LAST SUPPER”**