

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP PREACHING SCHEDULE: WINTER 2012  
MATTHEW 26 - 28

Introduction

The identity of Jesus of Nazareth as Son of God and Messiah, sent to save his people, both Jew and Gentile, from their sins, is broached by Matthew in his first four chapters. Thereupon, he describes Jesus' ministry whereby, in words and deeds, this identity is gradually disclosed to those with ears to hear and eyes to see. Hence, Peter is enabled to say: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (16:16).

But then, with a shocking prediction, Jesus reveals to them his immediate mission as the Christ: not to establish the visible kingdom of God on earth but to lay its necessary foundation. The Son of Man, he three times repeats, is to go to Jerusalem and be killed and, after three days, rise from the dead. The meaning of this is opaque to their distressed minds, but later they understand that "The Son of Man came... to give his life as a ransom for many" (20:28).

The fulfillment of Jesus' prediction and of his Father's will is the subject of the final chapters. Last year, in chs. 21-25, we followed the details both of the interactions with his opponents and of the special ministry to his Disciples. It remains, this year, chs. 26-28, to see the fulfillment of the hatred of Jesus in a rigged trial and a brutal Roman crucifixion, as well as the culmination of his fellowship with the Twelve in the Last Supper.

Meanwhile, the Disciples had not been able to focus on the statement that he would be raised from the dead, since they could not accept the concept of his dying in the first place. After the crucifixion and burial, there is scant evidence that they believed a resurrection might follow. But the engulfing sorrow at Jesus' death, which numbed their minds and hearts, would be swallowed up in the joy of the Resurrection.

It is this joy, and its cause, which constitutes the Gospel that Jesus commissioned them to preach to all the world. It has reached us across the centuries and across all ethnic and other distinctions. It will reach yet others as we prove to be disciples who 'take up their cross and follow him.' Essentially, however, we cannot do this alone: "Emmanuel ... God with us," announced to Joseph in chapter one is, deliberately, the last word of ch. 28: "Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Outline

Jan. 8:	Mt. 26: 1-16	"She has done a beautiful thing" .....	(J. Jackson)
15:	Mt. 26: 17-29	"I will keep the Passover" .....	(J. Hartung)
22:	Sanctity of Human Life Sunday .....		(S. Matzal)
29:	Mt. 26 : 30-46	"Your will be done" .....	(N. Jackson)
Feb. 5:	Mt. 26: 47-56	"That the Scriptures ... be fulfilled" .....	(J. Jackson)
12:	Mt. 26: 57-68	"He has uttered blasphemy" .....	(S. Matzal)
19:	Mt. 26: 69-75	"Peter ... went out and wept bitterly" .....	(S. Matzal)
26:	Mt. 27: 1-10	"Thirty pieces ... the price of him" .....	(J. Jackson)
Mar. 4:	Mt. 27: 11-26	"His blood be on us and our children" .....	(N. Jackson)
11:	Mt. 27: 27-44	"He saved others; he cannot ... himself" .....	(S. Matzal)
18:	Mt. 27: 45-56	"My God, ... why have you forsaken me?" .....	(J. Jackson)
25:	Mt. 27: 57-66	"They went and made the tomb secure" .....	(N. Jackson)
Apr. 1:	Mt. 28: 1-10	"He is not here for he has risen" .....	(S. Matzal)
8:	Mt. 28: 11-20	"I am with you always"      EASTER .....	(J. Jackson)

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The Eldership: Jan. 2012