

April 8, 2020

## A Week of Love - Part 5

Luke 22:1-2, “Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people.”

Again we see on this Wednesday in Jerusalem, a group of religious people who want to get rid of Jesus. The scripture points them out as the chief priests and the teachers of the law. There has never been anyone so attacked; so maligned; His name so used in vain, than Jesus. Why do so many seem to have such disdain for this man; for this name of Jesus? Wasn't He just another important religious leader? Wasn't He like Mohammed, Confucius, or Buddha? The answer is an emphatic and resounding NO!

Who is this man? Let's look and see what scripture says. Not too long before this, Jesus had asked this very question of His followers. Matt. 16:13-17 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” He asked. “Who do you say I Am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

So on this day, this Wednesday before His crucifixion, people were still wondering Who he was. He was a threat to their system of religion. To believe Him would mean that they had been wrong. It would be so much easier just to kill Him and stop this once and for all; so they began to plot against Him. These religious people were pawns in the hands of the one who hates Jesus the most; who hates the Creator the most; Satan. He has always wanted to get rid of Jesus. He has always wanted to drag His name through the mud. He has always wanted to discredit the work of Christ and the followers of Jesus.

After the passage in Matt. 16, Jesus then told His disciples what must take place: Matt. 16:21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Dear Heavenly Father, how could You love us so much that this would have to take place? How can Your love be so deep and so wide? How could You take our sins upon Yourself and pay the price for us? We don't deserve that. We could never deserve that kind of love. But, You gave it anyway. You paid the price. You paid a debt You did not owe. Thank You, thank You, thank You. In Jesus Name, Amen