

THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS

Today's lesson is found in all three synoptic gospels (Matt.26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2; and Luke 22:1-6). Because of more details given about the Plot to Kill Jesus, we will study Luke 22:1-6.

The first century government of the priest-nation of Israel plotted to kill Jesus. *"Then the chief priests and elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas."* (Matt.26:3)

This gov't's plot to kill Jesus occurred two days before the Passover of the crucifixion of Jesus. They wanted to kill Jesus because He claimed to be their Messiah. The Passover was the greatest national messianic holiday of the priest-nation of Israel – *"For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed."* (1 Cor.5:7) (John 1:29; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet.1:19)

- How important was it for these religious leaders to carefully study the Bible regarding the death of the Messiah? (Read - Acts 2:29-36; 3:14-26; 7:51-53; 13:26-41)
- How important is it for you to carefully study the Bible regarding a major decision in your life?

We will study Luke 22:1-6 by the following four homiletical points.

- Sanhedrin debate (22:1-2)
- Satan enters one disciple (22:3)
- Silver deal (22:4-5) (Matt.26:15)
- Seclusion decision (22:6) (Matt.26:5; Mark 14:2)

This lesson will study SIX aspects of the Sanhedrin's plot to kill Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus had taught His disciples about this very thing but they wouldn't accept (believe and cycle) the teaching (Matt.16:21-23; 17:22-23; 20:18-19).

"And it came about that when Jesus had finished all these words, He said to His disciples, 'You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be delivered up for crucifixion.'" (Matt.26:1-2)

Tomorrow Jesus will tell them that "My time is at hand." (Matt.26:18)

Why do you struggle with the application of a certain doctrinal teaching? You have heard it more than once and yet you are unwilling to apply it – WHY? [Is this negative volition? Is this considered a rebellious attitude? Is this considered reversionism? (Read Heb.3-4)]

2. The Supreme Court of Israel (Sanhedrin) was unanimous in plotting to kill Jesus this Passover.

The problem was the method (how) and timing (when). *"And they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth (dolos/legal deceit), and kill Him. But they were saying, 'Not during the festival, lest a riot occur among the people.'"*

(Matt.26:4-5) They wanted to kill Jesus legally if possible. Because they had found it impossible to entrap Him (Mark 12:34).

3. The Sanhedrin finally concluded that killing Jesus during the eight-day holiday (Passover and Unleavened Bread) was too risky.

They were afraid of a riot among the people because Jesus was very popular (Matt.26:5; Mark 14:2; Luke 22:2). Plus Roman security was tight during the pilgrimage festivals.

Jesus was popular because He had brought the reality of the presence of the Messiah to the people.

- God's plan – crucify Jesus according to the word of God (1 Cor.15:3-4).
- Satan's plan – kill Jesus according to anything but the word of God.

It was too risky until Judas showed up at their door of opportunity - "And Satan entered (eiserchomai/ a.m.ind) into Judas." (Luke 22:3).

- God's plan – a close friend betray Messiah (Psa.41:9; John 13:18)
- Satan's plan – Judas betray Jesus.

4. Satan has been working hard among the disciples against the doctrinal details of the plan of God.

"Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interest, but man's." (Matt.16:23)

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." (Luke 22:31-32) (22:31-35)

5. DUMB LUCK: Judas volunteers his services to the Sanhedrin for the betrayal of Jesus (Luke 22:4-6).

Judas meets with the Sanhedrin and temple police (22:4, 52) The insider meets with the outsiders against Jesus.

Stephen declared the betrayal of Jesus Christ to include Israel as a nation and not just Judas (Acts 7:51-53; 13:23-30).

GOD'S PLAN IS GREATER THAN SATAN'S PLAN. Listen – Before the crucifixion, Satan's focus was against the seed Savior. After the crucifixion, Satan's focus is against the Savior seed, the Church

"For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake." (Phil.1:29)

6. Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver according to messianic prophecy (Matt.27:3-10).

"And they were glad and agreed to give him money." (22:5)

"Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, 'and they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one whose price had been set by the sons of Israel.'" (Matt.27:9; Zech.11:12)

What is the thing that we are willing to betray the loyalty of our relationship with Jesus Christ?

- It is something that dominates a great deal of our attention.
- It is something that is in conflict with the revealed will of God regarding it.