

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
MARCH 24, 2021
MATTHEW 26:30-35

INTRODUCTION:

1. Matthew 26 records the last hours of the life of Jesus as our attention is brought to the *“night in which He was betrayed”* (1 Cor. 11.23), and the night before He is crucified.
2. Jesus had been preparing His disciples for this time by strengthening their faith.
 - a) With the hardships coming, they needed to trust in God. (Matt.17.14-21; 20.17-19)
 - b) Though His disciples would be scattered, their faith would not be lost. (John 17.9-15)
3. **MATTHEW 26.30:** *“And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.”*
 - a) Jesus had a long conversation on their way to the Mount of Olives. (John 13.30)
 - b) Jesus then prays to the Father for Himself, His disciples, and all believers. (John 17; 18.1)
4. In our text, Jesus predicts the scattering of His disciples. [Read Matthew 26.30-35]

I. SINGING

- A. **MATTHEW 26.30:** *“And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives”*
 1. There are three types of songs that are sung in worship. (Eph. 5.19)
 - a) Psalms (psalms): “touch with the chords of a stringed instrument.” The word does not suggest the method but the type; i.e., songs that were inspired. (cf. Luke 24.44)
 - b) Hymns (hymns): “song of praise to God” (cf. Acts 16.25)
 - c) Spiritual Songs (pneumatikais ode): Songs with a spiritual theme. (cf. Rev. 5.9)
 2. With His betrayal and death just hours away, the disciples were still able to praise God.
 - a) Consider their mood. (Matt. 26.22; Luke 22.45)
 - b) Jesus encourages them to *“be of good cheer.”* (John 16.33)
- B. In our darkest hour, we can still give praise to God knowing He is with us. (Heb. 13.5)
 1. Some blame God during times of hardship. (Job 10.1-7; Ps. 13.1,2)
 2. Some can look to God with a heart of praise. (Ps. 22.1,8,16,22)

II. STUMBLING

- A. **MATTHEW 26.31:** *“Then Jesus said to them, ‘All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night...’”*
 1. Stumble (skandalizo): “anything that arouses prejudice, or becomes a hinderance to others or causes them to fall.” (Matt. 13.20,21; 26.31; John 16.1-4,32; 17.12)
 2. Yet none of the disciples would be lost. (John 17.12; 16.1-4)
 3. Jesus makes specific mention of Peter. (Luke 22.31,32)
- B. Our faith will be challenged, but there are things that can help to strengthen our faith.
 1. We can pray for one another. (1 Thess. 5.25; Col. 1.9)
 2. We can strengthen one another. (Heb. 10.24,25)
 3. We can look for the good that is to come. (Matt. 26.32)

III. SUPPORTING

- A. **MATTHEW 26.33:** *“Peter answered and said to Him, ‘Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.’”*
 1. **MATTHEW 26.35:** *“And so said all the disciples.”*
 2. Yet Peter and the rest would stumble. (Matt. 26.34)
- B. It is easy to make a commitment when there is nothing at stake. The real test is how we act when we are in a given situation. (cf. Matt. 23.29,30)