

## Background Information of Matthew 26



For centuries, the world has attempted to grasp the value of Jesus Christ. Who is He? Is He a good man? Is He a false prophet? Is He God? Of course, Christians believe that He is in fact God incarnate. With that being said, not all Christians have adequately grasped the ramifications that come with this fact.

Mary from Bethany recognized the infinite value of Jesus Christ. In Mt 26:6-13 the reader sees this faithful woman prepare Jesus for His death in anointing Him with an expensive ointment. She recognizes that Jesus deserves a proper burial fitting His glory. This is in high contrast to the amount of value the apostles place in Jesus. "Why this waste?" they say (Mt 26:8). Even worse, one of those apostles, Judas Iscariot, sells out and betrays Jesus for even less money than the ointment (see Mt 26:14-16). Peter, along with the rest of the apostles, proclaim they will not betray Jesus in His hour of suffering. Unfortunately, Jesus proves to be right because in the face of suffering they reveal their hearts true value: their own physical safety.

CS Lewis famously said "There is no neutral ground in the universe. Every square inch, every split second is claimed by God, and counterclaimed by Satan." Every person has a highest value. Jesus Himself made this abundantly clear; "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt 6:21). If one does not cherish Jesus and value Him above all earthly things, then he or she is not worthy of Him. Second place is not good enough. He must be our treasure. If He is not, then we are missing the gospel message. Salvation is for those who repent and believe in Him and entrust their lives to Him. To follow Jesus is to be all-in with Him. Otherwise, then Christians will deny Him when the going gets rough. That is what you see here in Matthew 26. The apostles were following Jesus for three years. They spent their every waking moment with Him. Even the intimacy of the Last Supper (Mt 26:17-29), in which Jesus promises His ever-abiding presence in the Eucharist could not win over their hearts. Let us let Him win over our hearts.