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a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

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SERIES: Matthew (The King, His Kingdom And Me)

TITLE: Program 46 – A Devoted Follower

MONDAY

OPEN

If you were to describe your life, Beloved, since you became a child of God, would you describe it as a life of sacrifice, a life where you have poured out everything that you have, your time, your talents, your money, your possessions, poured out for Jesus Christ? Or would you say, “No, I’m sorry, but honestly what I’ve done is I’ve betrayed Him over and over and over again.” O Beloved, this message is for you today so that you’re not ashamed when you see Him face to face.

PART ONE

Matthew has finished recording for us the discourses--the teaching of Jesus Christ. The Passover is at hand. And you and I have come to Matthew chapter 26. In Matthew chapter 26, verse 1 it said, “**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 handed**

over for crucifixion.” (Matthew 26:1-2) Remember when John identified Jesus? He said, “...Behold, the Lamb of God [that] takes away the sin[s] of the world!” (John 1:29) Jesus, our Passover, was about to be sacrificed for us. It was the final Passover. And as we come to this portion of Matthew you want to mark once again the references to the “Passover.” I simply put a half circle in red over the Passover because it was the blood of the lamb that caused the angel of death to pass over the houses in the land of Egypt. It says in verse 3, “Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas; and they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth and kill Him. But they were saying, ‘Not during the festival....’” (Matthew 26:3-5) Now the festival is the festival of “Pasach,” of the Passover. And so you would mark it in the same way, but you would also mark a time phrase because it’s telling us when this is happening. He says, “...Otherwise a riot might occur among the people.” (Matthew 26:5) Verse 6: “Now when Jesus was in Bethany, at the home of Simon the leper.” (Matthew 26:6) Where is Bethany? Bethany is kind of behind the Mount of Olives. And this is where Jesus would spend time because He was in the house of Lazarus. He was with His friends and this is where He was staying. And so it says, “Now when Jesus was in Bethany, at the home of Simon the leper.” (Matthew 26:6) He was visiting the house of Simon the leper. “A woman came to Him with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume, and she poured it on His head as He reclined at ... table. But the disciples were indignant when they saw this, and [they] said, ‘Why this waste? For this perfume might have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor.’ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, ‘Why do you bother the woman? For she has done a good deed [for] Me. For you always have the poor with you; but you do not always have Me.’ ” (Matthew 26:7-11) Where is this incident taking place? It’s taking place in the home of Simon the leper. And we know from the other gospels that others are there. We know from

the gospels that this is Mary who is breaking this alabaster vial of perfume upon Jesus' feet, who is anointing Jesus for His burial. In verse 12 it goes on to say, **"For when she poured this perfume on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial."** (Matthew 26:12) Now remember the Passover is at hand. He is the Lamb of God. He's the Passover Lamb. The hour has come for the Son of Man to be crucified. And so Jesus is saying, ["She's done this in preparation for My burial."] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 26:12) **"Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."** (Matthew 26:13) Now why does God give us this? Why does Matthew include this in his gospel? Because he wants us to remember that Jesus is the Messiah, He is the Christ, which is one in the same. He is the Son of David. He is the Son of Abraham. He is Yeshua. He is to be named Jesus, for He saves His people from their sins. (See Matthew 1:21) He is Immanuel, God with us. (See Matthew 1:23) But He is the One who has come to lay down His life. Yes, He's the King. And yes, He's preaching the gospel of the kingdom, **"...Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."** (Matthew 4:17) But before people can enter the kingdom of heaven they have to have their sins taken away. So what he's doing is he's setting us up to see a contrast. He's going to show us in Matthew a contrast between this woman who pours out everything that she has, and the one named Judas, who has seen Jesus do all these miracles and is now going to betray Jesus. So He's going to give us a contrast in this chapter, a contrast that you and I need to look at, a contrast that we need to apply to our lives. Are you like the woman? Are you like the woman who was willing to pour out everything that you have on Jesus Christ while you have the opportunity? When you look at the other gospels, when you look at Mark, when you look at John, both of these gospels tell us that this perfume that she poured out on Him was worth over three hundred denarii. (See Mark 14:5) A denarii was a days' wages. So she is pouring out a whole years' income, so to speak, on

Jesus Christ. The disciples are looking at it and they began to scold her. They began to scold her because this is a waste. They're indignant at what she's doing. And yet, Jesus Christ understands it perfectly. Jesus Christ knows that she is doing it; she is pouring out everything while she can and while she has opportunity ["preparing for His burial."] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 26:12) Well, let's continue in Matthew chapter 26 because I want you to see the contrast. In verse 14, because the one that protests the loudest, and the other gospels tell us this, is Judas Iscariot who's going to betray Jesus. And he's the one that's indignant. And he's indignant because he would rather have her sell that perfume and take the profit and put it into the purse because the gospel tells us, that he's constantly dipping into that purse. He's constantly pilfering the money and sliding it into his own pocket. So watch what God tells us through Matthew. **"Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, when to the chief priests and said, 'What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?' And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him." (Matthew 26:14-15)** You know it's so interesting, because here in Jerusalem at this time, I've held in my hand coins that date back to this time, pieces of silver. It's a coin with the head of a Roman on it. And this is what this man preferred, was a coin with the head of a Roman on it, thirty pieces of silver. Yes, it was a good sum. But he was selling out the Son of Man. He was selling out the Savior of the world. He was choosing the temporal over the eternal. He could not get past this life to look at the next. He was going to betray the Son of God. And it says in verse 16, **"From then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus."** (Matthew 26:16) Now remember what we saw when we studied the Word of God. We knew that Jesus selected Judas, that He selected all of His disciples. And yet one of them was like the son of the devil. One was going to betray Him. It says in verse 17, **"Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?'"** (Matthew 26:17) Now, why is he

calling it the “day of Unleavened Bread?” Well if you have an Inductive Study Bible, at the end of the book of Leviticus there’s a chart called “The Feasts of Israel”. If you have a study guide that you’ve downloaded from us, you can go and you can look at that chart on the Feasts of Israel. The first, or the Festival of Passover or “Pasach” was Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits. So it was also referred to as the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And they would cleanse their houses of all leaven in order to get rid of that leaven. Now leaven is a picture of sin. It’s a picture of what John the Baptist was saying when he came and said, “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**” (Matthew 3:2) “Get things straightened out. The Son of Man has come. The Messiah has come. The King of the kingdom of heaven has come.” Remember what the John the Baptist preached, “**Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**” (Matthew 3:2) In other words, “Get ready!” “**...Prepare ye the way of the Lord....**” (Matthew 3:3, KJV) He said to those “**...brood of vipers....**,” (Matthew 3:7) that were coming, [“Bring forth fruit unto repentance.”] (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 3:8) Well the Passover, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread was to get ready for the Passover, to cleanse the house, get rid of the symbol of sin. As Corinthians says as, [“For Christ, our Passover has been sacrificed for us therefore let us keep the feast of unleavened bread.”] (PARAPHRASE, 1 Corinthians 5:7-8) Get rid of sin. “[Jesus Christ] **is the propitiation for our sins; and not for our [sins] only, but... for [the sins] of the whole world.**” (1 John 2:2) This is what 1 John tells us. And who was He going to die for? He was going to die for Judas, the one who betrayed Him. He was going to die for the one, Mary, who broke the alabaster box and poured out everything for Him. The thing that was going to make the difference is their response to Jesus Christ. We’ll talk about it more in just a minute, Beloved.

PART TWO

It was the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and Jesus was about to die for the sins of the world, Beloved. As I was telling you, this is when they would get rid of the leaven in the household, which was a symbol of sin. In 1 Corinthians chapter 5, Paul is dealing with the church that is not dealing with sin. A man is doing what even the Gentiles don't do. He's sleeping with his father's wife. And this is what he says. He says in verse 6, **"Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough?" (1 Corinthians 5:6)** It's like yeast. **"Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened...." (1 Corinthians 5:7)** In other words, once we believe in Jesus Christ, once we enter into the new covenant, then what happens, Beloved, is our sin is taken care of. **"...For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed [for us]. Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." (1 Corinthians 5:8)** The Passover was at hand. Jesus, the Passover Lamb would be slain and pay for all the sins of the whole world. (See John 1:29) Now let's go back to Matthew, chapter 26. And in the light of what we have just seen I think you're going to appreciate this passage even more. It says in verse 17, **"Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?'" (Matthew 26:17)** Remember to mark "Passover". **"And He said, 'Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, 'My time is near; I am to keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.''" [And] the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. Now when evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. As they were eating, He said, 'Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me.' Being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, 'Surely not I, Lord?' And He answered, 'He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray**

Me. The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him....” (Matthew 26:18-24) He’s going to die. He’s going to die, just as it is written. When that first Passover lamb was slain it was a picture of the Messiah, who was to come. It was a picture of Yeshua. It was a picture of God, our Savior. And He says, **“...As it is written... but woe” (Matthew 26:24)** You want to mark the “woe” again like we have done in red, coming down and colored brown. **“...But woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.’ And Judas, who was betraying Him said, ‘Surely it is not I, Rabbi?’ [And] Jesus said to him, ‘You have said it yourself.’ [You know that it is you. And] while they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for [the] forgiveness of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink [the] fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.” (Matthew 26:28 -29)** This is the last time that He’s going to mention the kingdom, because the King is about to die so that you and I might be part of His kingdom. But I want us to look for a moment at what He is doing. He is fulfilling Jeremiah chapter 31, verse 31. It says, **“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt....” (Jeremiah 31:31-32)** What’s He talking about? He’s talking about when He made the Ten Commandments, when He made the covenant of the Law. **“ ‘Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,’ declares the Lord.”** Now listen

carefully, **“But this is the covenant ... I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it....” (Jeremiah 31:32-33)** Before the Law was written on tables of stone, but now it’s going to be written on tables of flesh. **“...And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, “Know the Lord [know the Lord],” for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,’ declares the Lord....”** And here’s the bottom line of it all. **“...For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.” (Jeremiah 31:33-34)** What a momentous moment this is in history. I don’t think that we realize the significance of what Jesus Christ is doing in that upper room at the Feast of Passover, at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, for He is inaugurating a new covenant, a new covenant that was promised back in the days of Jeremiah. He promised them that there was a day coming when He would forgive all their sins, when their sins would be paid for in full. Now that moment has come. He is the Passover Lamb. And as He takes that bread and breaks it and tells them that **“...This is [His] body which is [broken] for [them]....,” (Luke 22:19)** as He takes that cup and says that, **“...this is [the] blood of the [new] covenant....” (Matthew 26:28)** He also makes a promise to them. And it’s the last time that the kingdom is mentioned in the gospel of Matthew. The promise is this. Let me read it to you again. He says, **“...This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for [the] forgiveness of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new...,”** now listen, **“...with you in My Father’s kingdom.” (Matthew 26:28-29)** He is saying to them, “I’m going to drink the fruit of the vine with you again. And I’m going to do it in My Father’s kingdom. They have left everything and they have followed Jesus. They have believed that He is the Messiah, that He is the Son of David, that He is the Son of Abraham, that He is Immanuel—God

with us—and consequently they are going to have forgiveness of sins. O Beloved, have you believed? Have you received Jesus Christ? Have you said, “I want to be done with my sin?” Have you said: “I don’t want to betray Him, I want to honor Him for who He is. I want to pour out everything that I have for Him”? I promise you that if you will do that, Precious One, then when He comes in great glory in His kingdom, then you will hear, “...**Well done, [My] good and faithful** [servant].” (**Matthew 25:21, KJV**)