



## Matthew 26:17-35

### V17-19

**Why was the Feast of Unleavened Bread and Passover an important moment in the Jewish calendar? Consider referencing Exodus 12**

*It is the first day of Unleavened Bread (in the Jewish calendar the new day begins at sunset and not midnight so by the time you are meeting for home group it would already be the next day) and families would start to remove leaven from their houses. During that day they would prepare and during the evening (the next day because of sunset) they would eat the Passover. There is some debate by scholars around the timing of the Passover meal that Jesus and disciples shared together. Please refer to commentaries for the full discussion. We know from John's gospel (13:1, 18:28, 19:14) that they ate the meal an evening before the traditional keeping of Passover. In short this would have meant that there would not have been a lamb at the meal because this needed ritually sacrificing at the temple the next day.*

**With reference to 1 Corinthians 5:7 why is that not a problem in Jesus's case?**

*As an aside, this would also have meant that Jesus was crucified at the same time that the Passover lambs were sacrificed in preparation.*

### V20-25

**What bombshell does Jesus drop here?**

**What does the disciples reaction here tell us about their relationship to Jesus and to Judas?**

*There may have been a number of reasons why Judas betrayed Jesus, perhaps talk of his burial in v12 has made him realise he wasn't the type of Messiah he wanted. We know at least one reason for sure from v14-16*

**What is Jesus's verdict for the one who will betray him?**

**In what ways is this betrayal by Judas a challenge to us?**

### V26-30

*At a Passover meal traditional words of explanation would have been given about the food that was eaten and they would have referred back to Israel's rescue from slavery in Egypt.*

**How does Jesus break from that tradition on this occasion?**

**If time consider referring to Exodus 24:7-8 and Jeremiah 31:31-34 to help understand the significance of what Jesus is doing here.**

**Instead of observe the Passover what does Jesus expect his followers to do from now on?**

**What are the assurances in these words for us?**

### V31-35

**What second bombshell does Jesus drop here?**

**What can the reaction of Peter and the other disciples teach us about ourselves?**

*In a matter of a few short hours all of their self-confidence would be totally undone.*

*If limited for time please consider these key application questions:*

**\*\*\*Jesus already knows his disciples will betray, deny and desert him. If we are honest we know we have done the same.**

**In what ways do we deny Jesus?**

**What comfort then can we take from his words and actions in v26-30 and his words in v32\*\*\***