

Preparing for Christ's Death

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 26:1-12.
- B. The cross is the climax of human history. (Psalm 22, Isaiah 53)
- C. There are four perspectives on the preparation of Jesus' death.

II. The preparation of sovereign grace.

- A. God master plans all events around the cross.
- B. Jesus made it clear that he was the promised one. (Luke 4; John 5; 7; 8:20; 10; 11)
- C. It was determined that Jesus would die because he was the lamb. (Luke 2:22, 1 Corinthians 1:7, Isaiah 53, 1 Peter 1:19-20, John 12)

III. The preparation of hateful rejection.

- A. The Jewish leadership wanted to get rid of Jesus, but they could not because the people would have rioted.
- B. The hateful rejection was part of God's plan of getting Jesus to the cross.

IV. The preparation of loving worship.

- A. Perfume was poured all over Jesus.
- B. The disciples were angry because the money from the perfume could have been given to the poor. (John 12:6)
- C. The perfume was an act of preparation for Jesus burial. The woman recognized and accepted Jesus' death. (Luke 10:39)

V. The preparation of hypocrisy. Judas pretended to love Jesus.

Application Questions:

1. Why is it that the cross is the climax of history?

2. How does God's planning demonstrate the cross's importance?

3. The woman with perfume anticipated the centrality of the cross. How can we live a lives that are more cross-centered?
