

▼ **The Looming Cross - Part 4**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday August 4, 2019

© 2019 Life Church Ministries, Inc.

<http://www.LifeChurchBoston.org/>

▶ **Read the Passage: Matthew 26:1-16 (& Mark 14:1-11; Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-11)**

▼ **Understand that Jesus fully expected to be crucified.**

- Meditate briefly on Matthew 26:1-5
- ▶ Matthew's 5 Sections: Matthew 7:28-29; Matthew 11:1; Matthew 13:53; Matthew 19:1-2; Matthew 26:1-2
- ▼ Jesus' predicts his death multiple times:
 - Matthew 12:38-41 - Sign of Jonah
 - Matthew 16:1-4 - Sign of Jonah
 - Matthew 16:21-28 - After Peter's Confession of Christ
 - Matthew 17:9-13 - After the Transfiguration
 - Matthew 21:33-46 - Parable of the Tenants
- Jesus warns the disciples once again that he will be crucified.
- ▼ Jesus fully expected to be crucified. It wasn't an accident.
 - Some theologians get this wrong. The Interpreter's Dictionary of the bible (Volume 2, page 893):
- ▼ Crucifixion was a Roman method of execution for rebels. Jesus' actions would not normally have brought him to the attention of the Roman governor. It took the Jewish leaders to make that happen.
 - Think about having a local Boston Crime result in a federal civil rights, hate crime, narcotics, or terrorism charge.
 - Judas' betrayal will allow the leaders to arrest Jesus away from the crowds.
- ▶ Meditate briefly on these passages: Matthew 16:21-26; mark 8:31-38; Luke 9:18-25
- ▼ Jesus' crucifixion will take place on Passover.
 - He deliberately chose this feast for his return to Jerusalem.
 - He will fulfill the feast.
 - His death will be an even greater Exodus than the original one.
- ▼ Embrace the cross!
 - Not the kind you wear!
 - Embrace the kind of cross that interrupts our personal ambition.

- ▼ **Understand what it took for the leaders to feel compelled to kill Jesus.**
 - Jesus operates in miracle, signs, and wonders.
 - Jesus teaches without deferring to other Jewish leaders.
 - Jesus has the admiration of the people.
 - No one can beat Jesus in a verbal confrontation.
 - Publicly arresting Jesus could cause a riot.
 - Faithfulness to the Kingdom can get you in trouble! (Write this down)

- ▼ **Understand the significance of Mary's actions.**
 - Meditate briefly on Matthew 26:6-13
 - Jesus interprets Mary's actions in light of his impending crucifixion.
 - Mary's actions are reported in 3 gospels: Matthew, Mark, John. Luke 7 appears to describe a different event.
 - ▼ Mary's action of costly devotion to Jesus sets an example for us.
 - This distinguishes the Kingdom of God from social justice movements! Social justice movements have no place for this kind of costly devotion. Remember the I-95 vs. MA 128 analogy.
 - Don't compromise the Kingdom in order to make the church look good to advocates of social justice.
 - Embrace costly devotion! (Write this down)

- ▼ **Understand the likely impact of Jesus' embrace of the cross.**
 - Meditate briefly on Matthew 26:14-16
 - Jesus' expectation that he will be crucified flies in the face of his disciples' expectation of political power in God's Kingdom.
 - Jesus' embrace of the cross and acceptance of Mary's act of devotion may have been too much for Judas.
 - ▼ Significance of Judas' fee:
 - 30 pieces of silver is the compensation price for a slave who has been injured or killed. Exodus 21:28-32
 - Zechariah 11:4-17
 - Jesus can identify with us in all of our trials - including betrayal.
 - This story of Jesus' betrayal by a member of his inner circle is bad public relations. You would only include (however reluctantly) it if it was true.
 - Don't betray Jesus through disillusionment! (Write this down)

- **Review**