coffman commentary matthew 26

coffman commentary matthew 26 offers a detailed and scholarly examination of one of the most pivotal chapters in the New Testament. Matthew 26 narrates the events leading up to the arrest of Jesus, including the anointing at Bethany, the Last Supper, Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane, and His betrayal by Judas Iscariot. This chapter is rich with theological significance, highlighting themes of sacrifice, betrayal, and fulfillment of prophecy. The Coffman Commentary provides historical context, linguistic insights, and practical applications that deepen understanding of these complex passages. This article explores the Coffman Commentary's interpretation of Matthew 26, emphasizing its relevance for biblical scholars, students, and devout readers. The following sections will guide readers through the major events and teachings found in this chapter, supported by Coffman's in-depth analysis and scholarly perspective.

- Anointing at Bethany and Its Significance
- The Plot Against Jesus
- \bullet The Last Supper and Institution of the Lord's Supper
- Jesus' Prayer in Gethsemane
- Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus
- Peter's Denial Foretold

Anointing at Bethany and Its Significance

The Coffman Commentary on Matthew 26 begins by examining the anointing of Jesus at Bethany, where a woman pours expensive perfume on Jesus' head. This act symbolizes Jesus' impending death and burial, underscoring the honor and devotion of the woman who anointed Him. Coffman points out the cultural and religious importance of anointing in Jewish tradition, which often signified consecration or preparation for a significant role.

Historical and Cultural Context

Coffman emphasizes that anointing with costly perfume was rare and a demonstration of great respect, reflecting the woman's understanding of Jesus' mission. This event takes place shortly before Jesus' crucifixion, highlighting its prophetic nature. The commentary also notes how the disciples' reaction, specifically Judas Iscariot's objection based on economic concerns, reveals underlying tensions within Jesus' followers.

Theological Implications of the Anointing

The Coffman Commentary interprets the anointing as a foreshadowing of Jesus' sacrificial death. The lavish use of perfume is seen as a symbol of the

preciousness of Jesus' sacrifice. Coffman connects this passage with Old Testament prophecies that describe the Messiah's suffering and the anointing of priests and kings, thus enriching the reader's understanding of the event's spiritual depth.

The Plot Against Jesus

Following the anointing, Matthew 26 records the conspiracy of the chief priests and elders to arrest Jesus secretly and kill Him. According to Coffman, this section highlights the escalating opposition Jesus faced from religious leaders who felt threatened by His influence. The commentary explores the political and religious motivations behind the plot, emphasizing the fulfillment of divine prophecy.

Religious Leaders' Motivations

Coffman explains that the religious authorities viewed Jesus as a disruptor of their established order. His teachings, miracles, and growing popularity undermined their authority. The commentary stresses that the leaders' decision to use deceit and violence contrasts sharply with Jesus' message of truth and love.

Prophetic Fulfillment

The Coffman Commentary points out that this plot fulfills earlier predictions made by Jesus about His suffering and betrayal. This section serves as a crucial link in the narrative, connecting Jesus' ministry to the culmination of His passion. Understanding the historical context of this conspiracy enhances appreciation of the gospel's coherence and divine inspiration.

The Last Supper and Institution of the Lord's Supper

The Last Supper is one of the most significant moments recorded in Matthew 26, marking the establishment of the Lord's Supper or Communion. Coffman's analysis highlights the symbolism of the bread and wine as representations of Jesus' body and blood, which would soon be sacrificed for humanity's redemption. This event establishes a ritual that has become central to Christian worship.

Symbolism of the Bread and Wine

Coffman notes that the breaking of bread and sharing of wine during the Last Supper convey deep theological truths about sacrifice, covenant, and fellowship. The commentary explains that Jesus' instructions to "do this in remembrance of me" underscore the perpetual memorial nature of the ordinance.

Significance for Christian Practice

The Coffman Commentary elaborates on how the institution of the Lord's Supper serves as a unifying act for believers, reminding them of Christ's atoning work. It also emphasizes the solemnity and reverence with which this sacrament should be observed, reinforcing the spiritual connection between the church and the sacrifice of Jesus.

Jesus' Prayer in Gethsemane

One of the most poignant moments in Matthew 26 is Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Coffman's commentary provides an in-depth look at Jesus' emotional and spiritual struggle as He prepares to face crucifixion. This prayer reveals Jesus' humanity and submission to the Father's will, serving as a model of obedience and faith under trial.

Emotional Agony and Divine Submission

Coffman highlights the intensity of Jesus' anguish, noting His plea to "let this cup pass" reflects natural human fear and dread. However, His ultimate submission—"not as I will, but as you will"—demonstrates perfect trust in God's plan. This passage is central to understanding the dual nature of Christ as both fully human and fully divine.

Lessons from Gethsemane

The commentary draws practical lessons for believers, emphasizing perseverance in prayer and surrender during times of suffering. Coffman stresses that Jesus' example encourages Christians to seek God earnestly while submitting to His sovereign will, even amid hardship.

Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

Matthew 26 also details the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot and His subsequent arrest. Coffman's commentary explores the tragic nature of Judas' actions and the fulfillment of prophecy through this act of treachery. The section also examines the role of divine sovereignty in the events that unfold.

Judas Iscariot's Betrayal

Coffman describes Judas' betrayal as motivated by greed and disillusionment, reflecting the dangers of misplaced priorities and spiritual failure. The commentary analyzes Judas' choice to identify Jesus with a kiss, a gesture of friendship turned into a sign of treason.

The Arrest and Its Significance

The arrest of Jesus marks the beginning of His passion and ultimate

sacrifice. Coffman underscores the irony of Jesus' peaceful submission to arrest despite the violent intentions of His captors. This event sets the stage for the trials and crucifixion that follow, fulfilling Jesus' predictions and demonstrating His obedience to the Father's redemptive plan.

Peter's Denial Foretold

The final section of Matthew 26 includes Jesus' prediction of Peter's denial, a moment of profound personal failure for one of His closest disciples. Coffman's commentary examines the psychological and spiritual dimensions of this prediction, highlighting themes of weakness, repentance, and restoration.

Peter's Confident Declaration

Coffman notes Peter's initial boldness in claiming he would never deny Jesus reflects human confidence that can quickly falter under pressure. This sets up a dramatic contrast with the actual denial, emphasizing the reality of human frailty.

The Importance of Forgiveness and Restoration

The commentary discusses how Peter's denial and subsequent repentance provide a powerful example of grace and forgiveness. Coffman highlights that despite failure, restoration is possible through sincere repentance and faith, a message that resonates throughout the New Testament.

- 1. The significance of costly anointing as prophetic act
- 2. The conspiracy of religious leaders and fulfillment of prophecy
- 3. The institution and symbolism of the Lord's Supper
- 4. Jesus' emotional prayer and submission in Gethsemane
- 5. The betrayal by Judas and peaceful arrest of Jesus
- 6. Peter's denial as a lesson in human weakness and divine grace

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of Coffman's commentary on Matthew 26?

Coffman's commentary on Matthew 26 focuses on the betrayal, arrest, and trial of Jesus, highlighting the fulfillment of prophecy and the faithfulness of Jesus amidst suffering.

How does Coffman interpret Judas Iscariot's role in Matthew 26?

Coffman views Judas Iscariot as the treacherous disciple whose betrayal was predicted by Jesus and necessary to fulfill the divine plan for salvation.

What significance does Coffman attribute to the Last Supper in Matthew 26?

Coffman emphasizes the Last Supper as the institution of the Lord's Supper, symbolizing Jesus' sacrifice and the new covenant between God and humanity.

According to Coffman, what is the importance of Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane?

Coffman sees Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane as a profound example of obedience and submission to God's will despite intense anguish and temptation.

How does Coffman explain Peter's denial as described in Matthew 26?

Coffman explains Peter's denial as a human weakness and failure, yet also as a fulfillment of Jesus' prediction and a lesson in repentance and forgiveness.

What does Coffman say about the Jewish leaders' role in Matthew 26?

Coffman portrays the Jewish leaders as antagonists who conspire to arrest and condemn Jesus, acting out of jealousy and fear of His influence.

How does Coffman interpret the fulfillment of prophecy in Matthew 26?

Coffman highlights multiple prophecies fulfilled in Matthew 26, including Jesus' betrayal and suffering, underscoring the divine orchestration of events.

What insights does Coffman provide about the trial of Jesus in Matthew 26?

Coffman discusses the unfair and unlawful nature of Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin, emphasizing Jesus' composure and the injustice He endured.

Additional Resources

1. Coffman Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew
This comprehensive commentary by James Burton Coffman offers in-depth
analysis and practical insights on the entire Gospel of Matthew. The section
on Matthew 26 explores the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion, including
the Last Supper, Judas' betrayal, and Jesus' arrest. Coffman's clear

explanations help readers understand the historical and theological significance of these pivotal moments.

- 2. Matthew 26 in Context: A Historical and Theological Study
 This book delves into the cultural and religious backdrop of Matthew 26,
 providing readers with a rich understanding of the text's setting. It
 examines the Last Supper, Jesus' prayers in Gethsemane, and the trials before
 the Sanhedrin. The study highlights how these events fulfill Old Testament
 prophecies and their implications for Christian faith.
- 3. Understanding the Passion: Insights from Matthew 26 Focused specifically on the passion narrative, this work offers a detailed exploration of Matthew 26. It discusses the themes of betrayal, sacrifice, and divine purpose, emphasizing Jesus' obedience to God's plan. The book draws from Coffman's commentary and other scholarly sources to offer a balanced and accessible interpretation.
- 4. The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus: A Commentary on Matthew 26 This commentary zeroes in on the dramatic events of betrayal and arrest, unpacking the motives and actions of key figures like Judas and the Jewish leaders. It provides theological reflections on Jesus' willingness to suffer and the significance of his arrest in the redemptive narrative. Readers gain a deeper appreciation of the human and divine elements in this chapter.
- 5. Gethsemane and the Garden Prayer: Lessons from Matthew 26 Exploring one of the most poignant moments in Matthew 26, this book examines Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. It discusses themes of submission, anguish, and faith under pressure. The author draws from Coffman's insights to encourage readers to apply these lessons in their own spiritual struggles.
- 6. Prophecy Fulfilled: The Significance of Matthew 26 This title highlights how Matthew 26 fulfills various Messianic prophecies, linking Jesus' actions to Old Testament predictions. It offers a detailed look at the symbolism in the Last Supper and the betrayal by Judas. The book is ideal for readers interested in biblical prophecy and its fulfillment in the New Testament narrative.
- 7. The Last Supper: A Theological Reflection on Matthew 26
 Focusing on the institution of the Lord's Supper, this book explores its meaning and importance as recorded in Matthew 26. It discusses the covenantal aspects and the establishment of the Eucharist. The reflection draws from Coffman's commentary to offer a rich theological understanding for both scholars and lay readers.
- 8. Faith and Fear: Peter's Denial in Matthew 26
 This work examines Peter's denial, highlighting the interplay of faith, fear, and human weakness. It provides a compassionate look at Peter's failure and subsequent restoration, encouraging readers to find hope in their own moments of doubt. Coffman's commentary is used to deepen the exploration of this complex character.
- 9. Trials Before the Sanhedrin: Justice and Injustice in Matthew 26 This book analyzes the legal and religious trials Jesus faced as described in Matthew 26. It critiques the fairness of the proceedings and reflects on the broader themes of justice, truth, and sacrifice. The study provides historical context alongside Coffman's theological insights to present a thorough understanding of these events.

Coffman Commentary Matthew 26

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