

# **Journey Through the New Testament**

## **Matthew 25-Mark 1**

### **Series: God's Assumptions**

#### **"You ARE the Plan"**

**2-10-19**

#### ***Introduction***

Matthew 26 opens with these words from Jesus, "You know that the Passover is two days from now. And the Human One will be handed over to be crucified." The purpose and power of Christ culminated in the final chapters of last week's reading as we encountered Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. This loving sacrifice on our behalf is beyond our comprehension, but not beyond our grasp. Because of Christ, we have salvation and enter into his love and life eternal. But, as followers of Christ, salvation is not just about me and Jesus. We are called and empowered to live with great compassion, to embody the great commandment, and to make disciples of all nations. We have a job to do, a mission to fulfill as we participate in God's plan for the world.

#### ***Opening Thoughts***

1. How has reading the book of Matthew given you a better understanding of God's love and God's plan for humanity?

#### ***Bible Study Selected verses from Matthew 26, 27, 28 (CEB)***

***Lesson Notes:*** Assign the following passages to read aloud then discuss the following questions.

- a. *Plot to kill Jesus, 26:1-5*
- b. *Jesus before Pilate, 27:1-2, 11-18*
- c. *Death sentence, 27:22-26*

#### ***What?***

1. What people and groups participated in Jesus being "handed over to be crucified?"

#### ***So What?***

1. So what was Jesus' understanding of being handed over to be crucified? (26:52-56)

2. So what purpose was fulfilled through Jesus' faithful obedience to the will of the Father? Refer also to John 3:16-17
3. So what purpose are we to fulfill as faithful disciples? (28:18)
4. How do you see God's providence and God's assumptions as the crucifixion unfolded?

### ***You ARE the Plan***

#### ***Now What?***

1. Now, what do you more fully understand about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus?
2. Now, what response are we to make to the extravagant love of Christ?

#### ***Group Sharing***

1. Who were some of the faithful disciples who had an influence on your coming to know Christ?
2. What ministries or activities are you involved in that provide opportunities for you to share your faith, to influence others with the love of Christ?

#### ***Closing Reflection***

Discuss the following quote and how it relates to "You ARE the plan."

*...faith is often construed as a way of thinking...faith is a way of life.*

Barbara Brown Taylor, *An Altar in the World*