

# The DAILY JESUS NEWS #276

## Tuesday of Passion Week... Day of Testing and Teaching Jesus' Private Teaching to His Disciples: The "Olivet Discourse"

### Tuesday Ends With The Sanhedrin's Final Rejection of Jesus MT 26.1-5 (Parallel Texts: MK 14.1-2; LK 22.1-2)

<sup>1</sup> Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called Passover, was approaching.

<sup>MT</sup> When Jesus had finished speaking all these words, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> *"As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be delivered over to be crucified."*

<sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas. <sup>4</sup> They were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, <sup>MT</sup> so they plotted among themselves to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him.

<sup>5</sup> They said, "But not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	On Mount Olivet, Just Outside Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	C. Tuesday: Day of Testing and Teaching
Title	Tuesday Ends With the Sanhedrin's Final Rejection of Jesus

#### COMMENT:

This passage--the 26th posting covering Tuesday of Passion Week in the DAILY JESUS NEWS--finally ended Jesus' second most prolific day of ministry. Matthew, Mark and Luke considered it to be one of the most important keys to understanding his life. The conclusion of the day shows us why.

Jesus had entered Jerusalem just two days earlier (Sunday) to the acclaim of the crowds as Israel's Messiah--the son of David, whom David called his "Lord." He had demonstrated his Messianic credentials with many "signs and wonders" of healing in the Temple, and his zeal for the holiness of the Temple by revealing his authority over it in cleansing and guarding over it (Monday). He acted with the authority of the Prophet, High Priest, and King that he was.

Then, on this climactic day (Tuesday) he was thoroughly tested in every way by the high priests, Pharisees, experts in the Law, Herodians, Sadducees, and the entire Sanhedrin. They could not find any error in him, but he had exposed their sins and follies to the full light of truth. Jesus gave them every opportunity to repent, but they refused.

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Under the Law, every sacrifice, including the Passover lamb, had to be perfect. A priest had to examine it and declare it to be acceptable. Jesus had been thoroughly examined. He was rejected by the leadership as Messiah, but they could find no sin in him. He will be declared "not guilty" of any crime repeatedly during his trial before Pilate. He is God's perfect, sacrificial Lamb.

After all of this, the day ended with their final, irreversible rejection of him as Messiah. It was done. Jesus summarized it again for his disciples: **"As you know, the Passover is two days away--and the Son of Man will be delivered over to be crucified."** He was seated on Mt Olivet looking at Jerusalem as the sun hid its face in shame behind the temple when he spoke these words.

Simultaneously, the Sanhedrin reached its final decision in Jerusalem. In their minds, Jesus was NOT the Messiah. He was a blaspheming criminal who must die in the most shameful, horrible way possible. Their rejection of Jesus meant he must be crucified. Darkness was falling over the land as the plan was sealed.

The Sanhedrin made their decision to arrest and kill Jesus after the Feasts of Unleavened Bread and Passover had ended. They feared they could not avoid a riot if they acted on their plan while so many pilgrims who were enamored with Jesus were flooding the city. This would all change the next day, when a new door of opportunity opened to them.

### APPLICATION:

God's timing is perfect. He anticipated, and the Scriptures predicted all the twists and turns of history leading up to the death of Jesus. The devil, sinful human nature, and the vagaries of politics all contributed to the flow of events. Yet God knew everything in advance, and worked the most evil, sinful actions of all time into the greatest good of the ages: the saving, substitutionary death of *"the Lamb of God."*

God is working in each of our lives with the same faithfulness, according to the same promises in the Scriptures, to bring about the ultimate goodness and glory of which he is capable--in the midst of every sinful, human, broken, seemingly impossible circumstance of our lives.

Jesus believed this. As we enter into the story of his betrayal, arrest, farce of a trial, sufferings, and death, we see that Jesus continued to believe in His Father's Word and purposes with unwavering, triumphant conviction. He lives in us to do the same thing in every circumstance of our lives, too.

*How can you draw strength from Jesus' example of faith, in the worst of circumstances?*

*How do you need to redouble your faith in God's sovereign purposes for you today?*

*Who can you encourage today in their struggle to believe God's promises in spite of their circumstances?*