



**HOLY WEEK WEDNESDAY**

# THE CONSPIRACY TO KILL



# THE PLOT

- Mt 26:1-5\* - Conspiracy by Chief Priests
- We note first that the preceding study of the Olivet Discourse (Mt 25) and the 'Long Delayed' end time Parables (Mt 26) were in fact preached by Our Lord on Holy Tuesday:
  - *“When Jesus finished these words ... in two days time it will be Passover.”*
- Jesus specifically says He will be **crucified** at the time of the Passover. He asserts the **manner** and **time** of His death.

# THE PLOT

- The conspiracy seems to take shape on this **Wednesday** when the chief priests and elders meet at the palace of Caiaphas.
- Their plan includes some kind of **treachery but not during the festival**, where the people - having received Jesus triumphantly only three days before - might **riot** and thus prevent arrest.
- **Because the conspiracy included an arrest that would lead to Jesus' death - a crime that implicated a violation of Roman law was needed.**

# THE PLOT



- If the conspiracy plan would lead to Jesus' death - why was the need for a *violation of Roman law?*

- **John 18:31** - The Jews, under Roman Occupation, did not have the right to execute anyone.

# ANOINTING AT BETHANY



## ANOINTING AT BETHANY

John 12: 1-9

please see prior lessons - No. 26

**When did it happen?**

**John** covers this event on the **Saturday** before Palm Sunday.

**Matthew** describes the event on the **evening** of Holy Tuesday.

◆ **WHY** did **Matthew** put the account *here* at Mt 26:6-13?

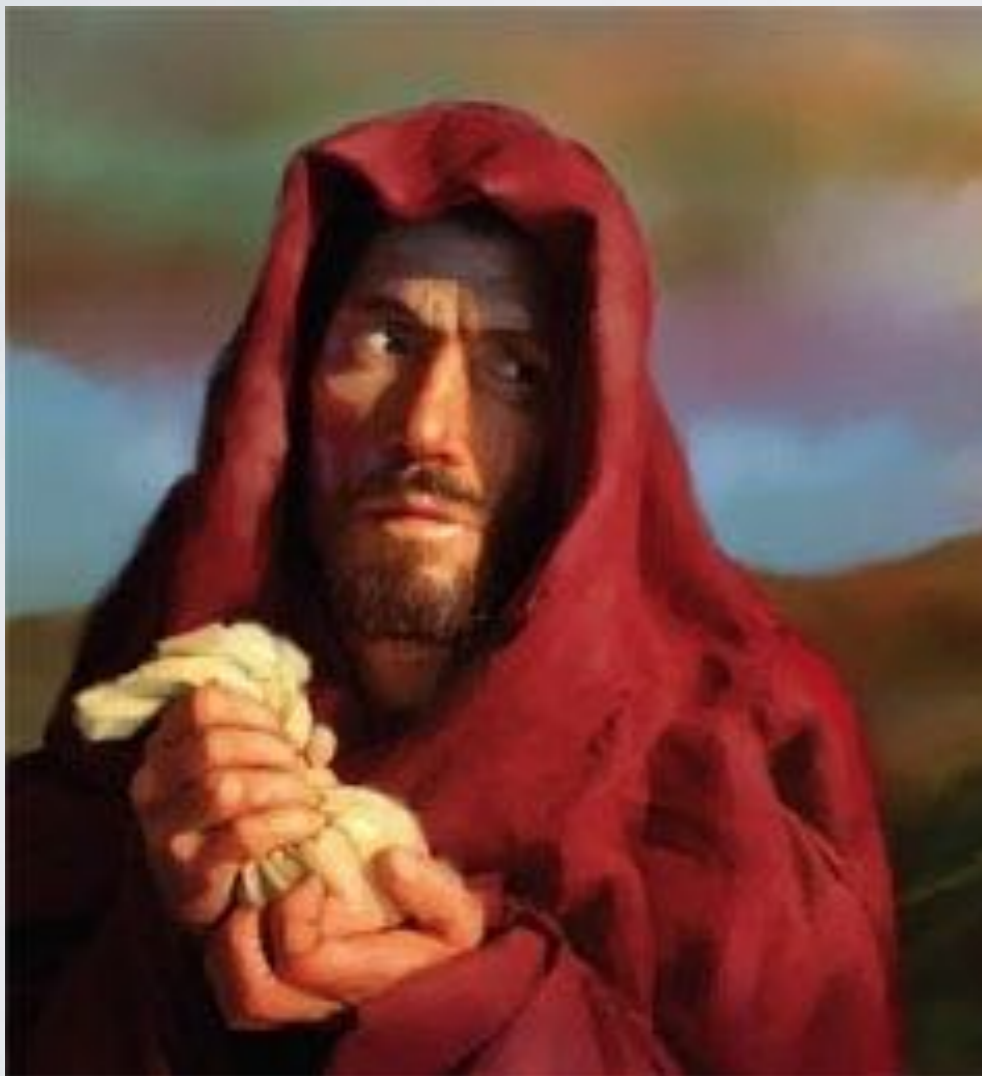
**HINT** - Jn 12:4-7

# JUDAS AGREES



- Mt 26:14-16\* - Judas Agreement to Betray
- Judas on Wednesday Morning joins the conspiracy to have Jesus handed over to the assembly of priests.
- It would be difficult to believe that having walked with Jesus and seeing the treachery of those who sought His death, that Judas was ignorant of the assembly's goal.

# JUDAS AGREES



- Judas initiates the dialogue by going to the chief priests.
  - What will you give me, if I hand him over?
- 30 pieces of Silver
- see Exodus 21:32\*
- See Zechariah 11:4-13\*



# JUDAS AGREES



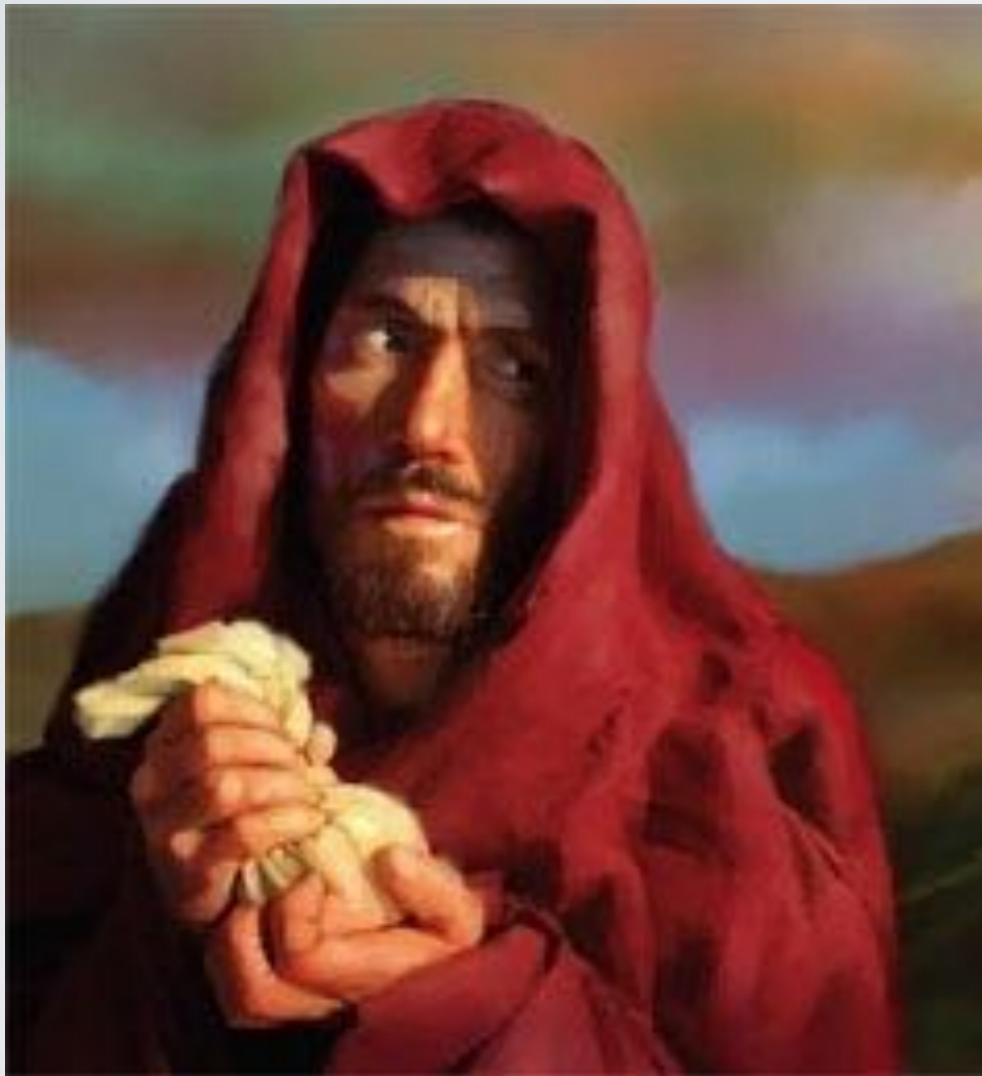
- **What will you give me?**  
The impious wretch did not betray his divine Master out of fear, but out of **avarice**. Of all passions the love of sordid lucre is the most vile; and the avaricious soul does not fear to plunge herself into the bottom of hell, for a trifling gain.
- Haydock, G. L. (1859). *Haydock's Catholic Commentary (Mt 26:15)*.

# JUDAS AGREES



- **What will you give me?**  
St Jerome, among others, noted the question to convey, that Judas regarded our Redeemer of such little value, as to **leave it to his enemies** to give what they pleased; that Judas would receive any price for Him.
- MacEvilly, J. (1898). An Exposition of the Gospels of Matthew and Mark (p. 499). Dublin

# JUDAS AGREES



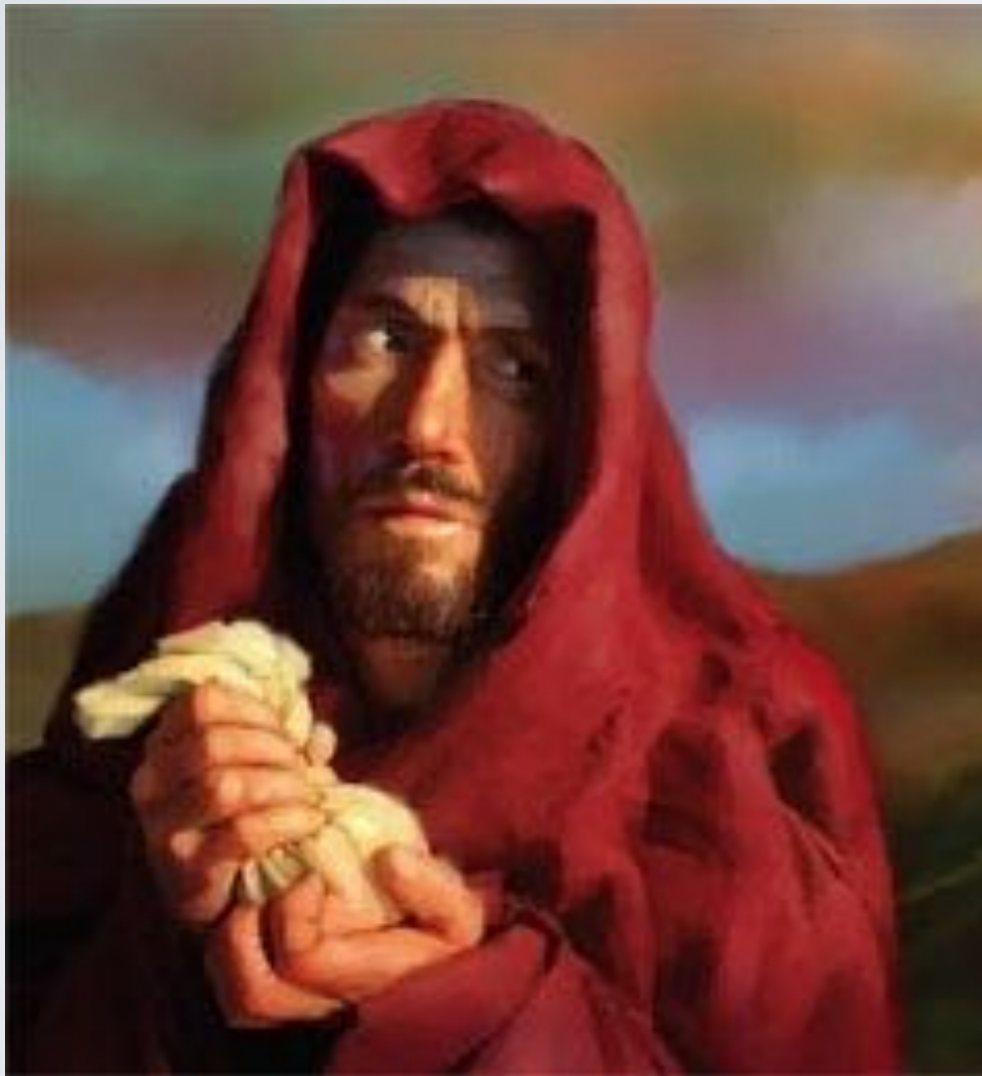
- **One of the Twelve** - some see the **magnitude** of his guilt and ingratitude, *since he was not even one of the seventy-two disciples*; but, one of His constant companions, a member of His own **family**, whom He destined to be one of the **future pillars** of His Church.
- MacEvilly, J. (1898). An Exposition of the Gospels of Matthew and Mark (p. 499). Dublin

# JUDAS AGREES

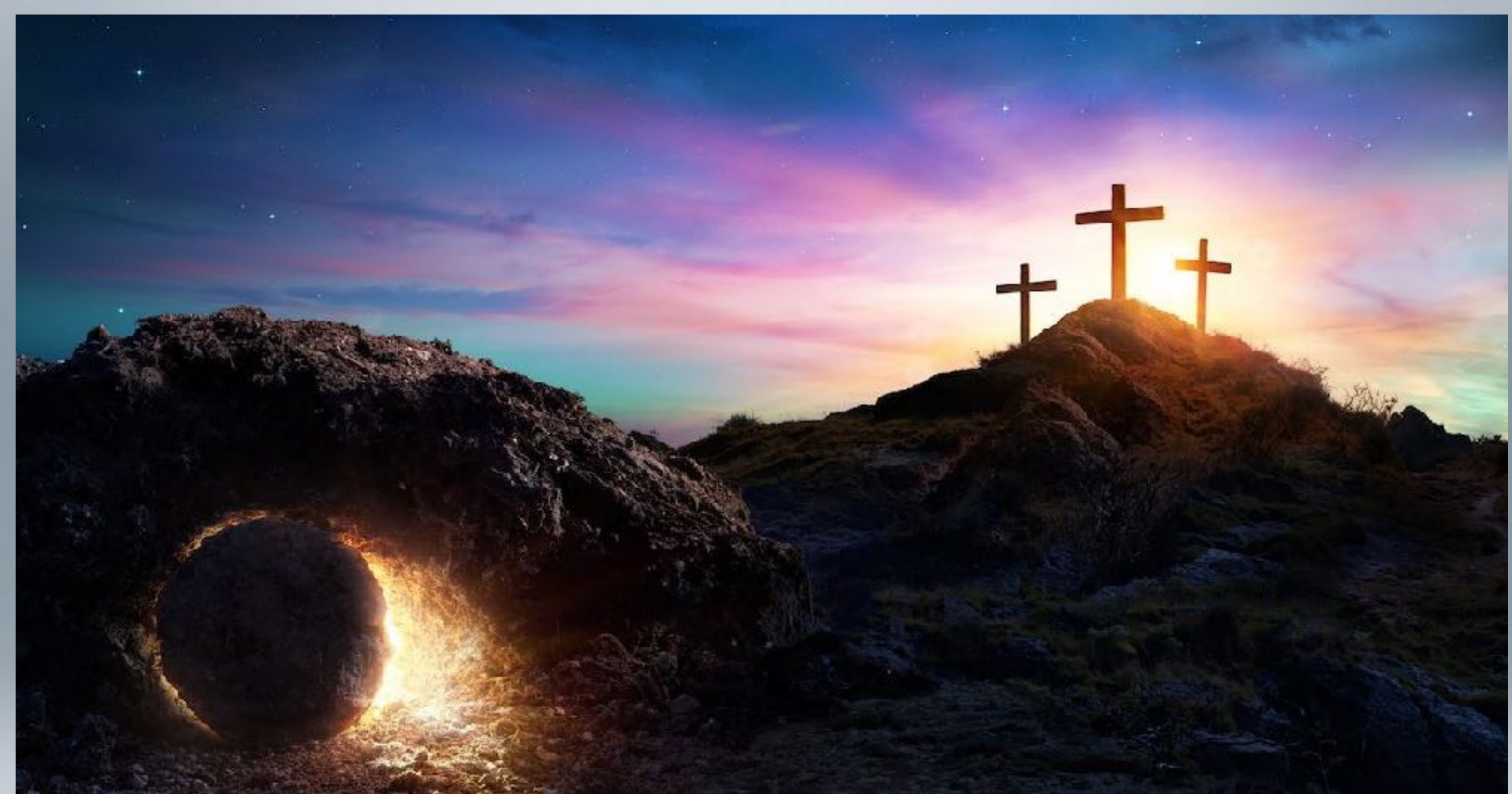


- Luke 22:1-6\*
- St Luke adds a supernatural and theological dimension to the betrayal.
- “Then Satan entered Judas, the one surnamed the Iscariot, who was counted among the twelve.” verse 3.
- Rather than *exculpate* Judas, this dimension shows unity of purpose with Satan himself.

# JUDAS AGREES



- Before leaving Judas, we should ponder ...
  - Do we not betray Our Lord and increase the weight of His cross when we sin and do the will of the Father of Lies?
- Are we without sin, such that we can cast the first stone to condemn Judas?
  - Yet, let us not confuse this so as to minimize Judas' sin.



**HOLY WEEK THURSDAY**

# PASSOVER PREPARATIONS



Luke 22: 7-13

# PASSOVER PREPARATIONS

- Lk 22: 7-13\* - Preparing for the Last Supper
  - This is the day for **sacrificing the Passover Lamb**
  - **Peter and John** are instructed to make the preparations for the last meal.
  - A rather **cryptic set of instructions** regard a *man carrying a jar of water*, gives us a clue as the location of the upper room in the Essenes' section.
  - The **Upper Room (κατάλυμα)** was large and **furnished**. This was the house of a well to do family.



# PASSOVER PREPARATIONS

- Lk 22:13 - “... they ... found everything exactly as he had told them, and there they prepared the Passover.”
- There is much to ponder about the **sacrifice of the Passover Lamb**
  - As one would guess it was not simply a trip to the butcher shop



# PASSOVER PREPARATIONS

- After identifying the Upper Room, Peter and John would have gone to the Temple area to purchase a lamb.
  - *Ex 12:5\* was applicable*
  - A qualifying lamb would be somewhat expensive. **It was a seller's market.**
- Once purchased, the lamb would be taken by Peter and John to the sanctuary area, where it would be slain.



# PASSOVER PREPARATIONS

- **Sacrificial animals** for feasts and daily offerings **were always sacrificed by a priest.**
- If it was a **daily holocaust lamb**, it would be consumed entirely by fire. (Lev 6).
- If a **sin offering**, the sin was transferred to the animal by the **laying of hands** and then the animal was sacrificed. (See Lv 4 description).
  - **Sin was forgiven. (Lv 4:20,26,31,35...)**



# PASSOVER PREPARATIONS

- The Passover lamb sacrifice was different.
  - The Priest did **not** sacrifice it.
  - The head of household, who purchased the lamb on the 10th of Nisan, now had to sacrifice it himself on the 14th, after the animal had been in the home with the **entire family** for five days.
  - The lamb's throat was slit with a sharp knife.



# PASSOVER PREPARATIONS

- The **blood** of the Lamb was poured out in the sanctuary.
- Josephus records that the priests who collected **blood** to spill on the altar, walked knee high in **blood**.
- **Blood** coagulates with time, and so it was customary to pour water on the **blood** to thin it *so that it would flow out of the sanctuary*.
- **Blood** & **Water** from the Passover lambs, flowed out the side of the Temple. John and Peter knew of this practice. *John would remember it in his + Gospel.*

# PASSOVER PREPARATIONS



- The slain **Lamb** was then **skewered** for travel to the home where the Passover would be celebrated.
- One **skewer** was placed into the lamb **separating the front legs**.
- A **second skewer** was inserted in the **mouth of the animal and through his body** - such that the two skewers **resembled a cross**.
  - The lamb thus appeared as if it had been crucified.

# PASSOVER PREPARATIONS



- Do you think Jesus might have pondered that image from His youth, as He came yearly for the festival?

- How would that have affected you, if you were Him?

# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING





# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

- And when it was evening, He came with the Twelve.
  - Mk 14:17 and Mt 26:20 and Luke 22:14 affirm this
- “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I shall not eat it again until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”  
(Lk 22:15-16).
- The Last Supper was celebrated with 13 persons participating: **Jesus and his 12 Apostles**.
  - Jesus had much to say and do that was important.

# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

## TIMELINE for the Upper Room

- ☑ The argument as to who is the greatest
- ☑ Jesus washes the Disciples feet
- ☑ Jesus institutes the Eucharist
- ☑ Jesus identifies the betrayer
- ☑ The commandment to love
- ☑ Peter's denial predicted
- ☑ Jesus delivers the Upper Room discourse
- ☑ Jesus and the Apostles sing a hymn and depart

# GREATEST



**WHO is the Greatest?**

# GREATEST

- In a way it seems hard to believe that the Apostles would argue among themselves about status on this night of all nights.
  - *Does that mean that the issue had not been settled in Mt 16 - when **Peter** was given the keys?  
Lets wait and see what else happens that night.*
- Of further interest, this is the second time Luke documents the argument - See **Lk 9:46-48\***
  - A child is Jesus' sign of appropriate humility.

# GREATEST

- This must have been an ongoing issue.
  - Even the **mother of the Sons of Zebedee** bargained for status of her sons in the Kingdom.
    - **Mt 20: 20-24\*** - We recall as well that she (Salome) as mother of James and John wanted a special position for her sons. The other Apostles were very annoyed.
- One must not only be able humble enough to receive and be like a child, but also meek enough to drink from the cup of suffering like Our Lord.

# GREATEST

- Now Luke's Gospel Account: **Luke 22: 24-30\***
  - “Who is the greater: the one seated at the table or the one who serves.” and yet
    - “I am among you as the one who serves.”
- The way of the world is not the way of His Kingdom
  - *Jesus had said this before* - “The Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mk 10:45; cf. Mt 20:25–28).

# GREATEST

- A reflection from Lumen Gentium 27 - Second Vatican Council.
  - The reward which Jesus promises those who stay faithful to him far exceeds anything human ambition can envisage: the Apostles will share in divine friendship in the Kingdom of heaven and they will sit on twelve thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel.
  - Christ's word and example are a basic norm of government in the Church; the Second Vatican Council explains our Lord's commandment as follows:

# GREATEST

- “The bishops, vicars and legates of Christ, govern the particular Church assigned to them by their counsels, exhortations and example, but over and above that -
- -also by the authority and sacred power which indeed they exercise exclusively for the spiritual development of their flock in truth and holiness, *keeping in mind that he who is greater should become as the lesser, and he who is the leader as the servant.*” (emphasis mine)
  - (cf. Lk 22:26–27) (Lumen Gentium, 27).



# GREATEST

- Read Luke 22: 32-33\*
- Luke follows the Argument account with **Jesus' verdict on the issue** - *which can only be seen from a **Hierarchial Church view***, given Peter's pride is still operative.
  - For now we see **Christ will pray specifically for Peter who is singled out by Christ to strengthen his brothers whose faith Satan will attack.**
  - **Peter is the Vicar of Christ, the Vizier and he will have a special role that will unfold beginning that night.**
    - *More later within context of John's Gospel account.*

# WASHING THE FEET



JESUS WASHES THE FEET OF THE  
APOSTLES

# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

- John devotes a large part of his Gospel (chaps. 13–17) to recounting Jesus' teaching to His Apostles at the Last Supper and on His way to the Mount of Olives.
- John records events and discourses not reported in the Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, and Luke)
  - for instance - The washing of Apostles' feet.
- **But then not the *The institution of the Eucharist***, since the other Gospels and Paul had already recorded it (cf. Mt 26:26–28; 1 Cor 11:23–27). John dealt with its significance in the John chapter 6 discourse.

# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

- Jesus chose carefully those words reserved for His last evening with the Apostles. The Apostles are the **audience**, and these words are first, for **them**.

**13**

- Chapter 13: 1-3 sets the stage as to the importance of the occasion.
- Chapter 13 narrates **the washing of feet** (13: 4–11) and **Jesus' explanation of why He did it** (13: 12–17).
- It records the **denunciation of the betrayer** (13: 18–32) and continues with the **teaching of the new commandment** (13: 33–35) and the **prediction of Peter's denial** (13: 36–38).

# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

- **Lets read John 13: 1-11\***
- **Jesus knew everything that was going to happen.**  
He knew His death and resurrection were imminent.  
(cf. John 18:4)
  - **His HOUR had come.**
- This is why His words acquire a **special tone of intimacy and love towards those whom he is leaving behind in the world.** Surrounded by those whom he has chosen, **He gives them his final teachings.**

# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

- The crowds were gone. It was just the Twelve and Jesus. They had just arrived *and already the twelve had argued about who among them was the greatest.*
- **Psalm 110\*** will be fulfilled tonight! **(cf Heb 5:1-10\*)**
  - There is a **new Priesthood** to be established, and His Exodus has drawn near. **(cf Lk 9:31).**
  - *Not a reconstituted Levitical priesthood, with daily sacrifices, but rather a New Covenant sacrifice with elements of bread and wine. (Gen 14:18\*).*

# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

- Judas was present, though he had already induced the betrayal. He would participate in this Holy Evening, perhaps a last chance to repent.
- Jesus loved them to the end, yet as St Thomas Aquinas notes, Judas failed to respond to Jesus' love. As such he condemned himself and embraced a destiny of his own choice. Avarice over Love.
- A Purification liturgy followed. (cf Lev 8:1-7\*).

# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

- In the Old Covenant a priest was a descendant of a previous priest, from the same tribe and even clan. Sons of Aaron were fully vested in the Priesthood. (cf Ex 28-29 and Lev 8-9).
  - The New Covenant priesthood would follow not by inheritance but by a call from God. Jesus chose these Twelve personally.
- **TODAY** - *We still understand a personal call to serve, but the personal call is insufficient for ordination unless it is verified by the Church speaking for Jesus.*



# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

- John's Gospel not only documents that Jesus had baptized new disciples, but that He supervised his Apostles then do likewise. (Jn 3:26-30\* & Jn 4:1-2\*)
  - One day He would command these same Apostles to **Baptize in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit** - as such He had taught them how. (Mt 28:19).



Those baptized into the New Covenant would become **sons and daughters** of the True God.

# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

- **First**, Jesus had seen to it that His Apostles had been washed for ministry - as He Himself had been baptized in the Jordan, but **now for their ordination as priests of the new covenant, only their feet needed to be cleansed.**
- **Second**, it was common for guests at a dinner to be welcomed by having their feet washed by a servant. A servant was not greater than his master.
  - Peter focused on the **second**, not understanding fully the **first**. Peter would understand later (**Jn 13:7\***)

# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

- Here we see a foreshadowing to an important Baptismal teaching.
- **We do not rebaptize** those who have in some way lost their baptismal purity.
  - *There is a different covenantal process for that restoration. (Jn 20: 22-23)*



# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

- “Whoever has bathed has no need except to have his feet washed for he is clean all over;
- so you are clean - but not all. For He knew who would betray Him.”
- “Not all of you are clean.” (Jn 13: 10-11)



# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING



- This is just my opinion now but I agree with some commentators who suggest:
  - that in Judas, at the Last Supper, we have a man aligned with Satan - who is doing the work of Satan.
- Judas that night is *NOT* in a state of *Grace*. His soul is in great mortal danger.

# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING



- The chronology of events therefore presents us with some interesting thoughts.
- Nothing seems to indicate that Jesus did not wash the feet of Judas. Was he ordained?
- Did Jesus give Judas communion? *Luke's account points in one direction, and John's hints in agreement with Luke.*



# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

- **John 13: 12-20\*** Jesus addresses Peter's washing objection



- “He gives us an example of a more elevated act of virtue, that we may at least learn to practice the lower degrees of it. For He indeed was their Lord, but when we perform our office (of Bishop), we can but do it to our fellow-servants.”

- **S. Chrys. hom. LXX in Joannes**

# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING



- “He continues “Blessed shall ye be if ye do them, I speak not of you all:” there is one among you who will not be blessed, and who will not do these things. “I know whom I have chosen.”
- Augustine of Hippo. Lectures or Tractates LIX on the Gospel according to St. John.



# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

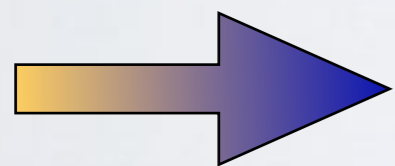


- “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send, receiveth me; and he that receiveth me, receiveth Him that sent me.”
- Did He not mean us to understand that there is as little distance between one sent by Him, and Himself, as there is between Himself and God the Father?”
- **Augustine of Hippo. Ibid.**

# HOLY THURSDAY EVENING

- But note - This dialogue seems to occur after the establishment of the Eucharist.
- “... so scripture might be fulfilled ‘the one who ate my food has raised his heel against me.’ (Jn 13:18).

★ Jesus quotes Psalm 41: “Even my bosom friend in whom I trusted, who ate of my **bread**, has lifted his heel against me.”



41:9 KJV & RSV; 41 & Hebrew TaNak — לחם  
Lechem (bread) and LXX ἄρτους artos (bread)

- 41:10 NAB — *food* (not a good translation).

# THE LAST SUPPER



# 4TH CUP VIDEO



- Dr Brant Pitre was born in Louisiana in 1975.
- He is a New Testament Scholar and a Distinguished Research Professor of Scripture at the Augustine Institute.
- He has also served as a Professor of Sacred Scripture at the Univ of Notre Dame, and the Notre Dame seminary.
- Dr Pitre has focused his studies on the Jewish roots of Christianity.

# 4TH CUP VIDEO



# LUKE - LAST SUPPER

- Read Luke 22: 14-20\* - The Eucharistic Supper
- *Chronology follows the Passover Seder*
  - Luke picks up the liturgy before the Passover lamb has been eaten and Jesus announcement that He will not eat it again until fulfillment in the Kingdom
  - He blesses the 2nd cup of wine (Deliverance) and states He will not drink fruit of the vine again until the Kingdom comes.
    - *The Eucharist establishment is next*

# LUKE - LAST SUPPER

- *Chronology of the Passover Seder continues:*

- Luke then documents that Jesus takes **Bread** and blesses it, breaks it and **gives it to the Apostles declaring it to be His body.**



- They eat the bread, now as His body.

- Likewise the **3rd cup of wine, (Blessing)** declaring it to be the **new Covenant in His blood** that will be shed for them. They drink from the Cup of Blessing



- *Note - Luke makes sure we know that Jesus does not eat His own body or blood.*

# ST PAUL - LAST SUPPER

- *Paul remembers what Jesus told him - 1 Cor 11:23-26*
  - “For I received from the Lord, what I also *handed on to you ...*
    - ...This is my Body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”
    - “This cup is the **new covenant in my blood**. Do this as often as you drink it, **in remembrance of me.**”
      - For as often as you **eat this bread** and **drink the cup**, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.





# MATTHEW - LAST SUPPER

- Read Matthew 26: 26-29 - The Eucharistic Supper
- *His chronology picks up after the 2nd cup has been consumed.*
  - Matthew records that same Eucharistic sequence, but for the 3rd cup of Blessing he adds — “for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.”

# MATTHEW - LAST SUPPER

- *Finally Matthew 26:30 and Mark 14:26 document something that is very strange — Jesus leaves the Passover seder incomplete.*
  - *There are four cups to a Passover Seder, and **the Passover Hagadah (liturgy) is finished after the Fourth cup is drunk.** When the final cup (the cup of consummation) is drunk then, **It is finished.***
- ★ **Mt 26:30:** “Then after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.” (**Hallel Ps 136:1-16**) — *thereby leaving the seder unfinished without drinking the 4th cup of Consummation!*

# JUDAS - LAST SUPPER

- *Did Judas receive the Eucharist from Our Lord?*

- Luke and John seem to suggest - **YES**

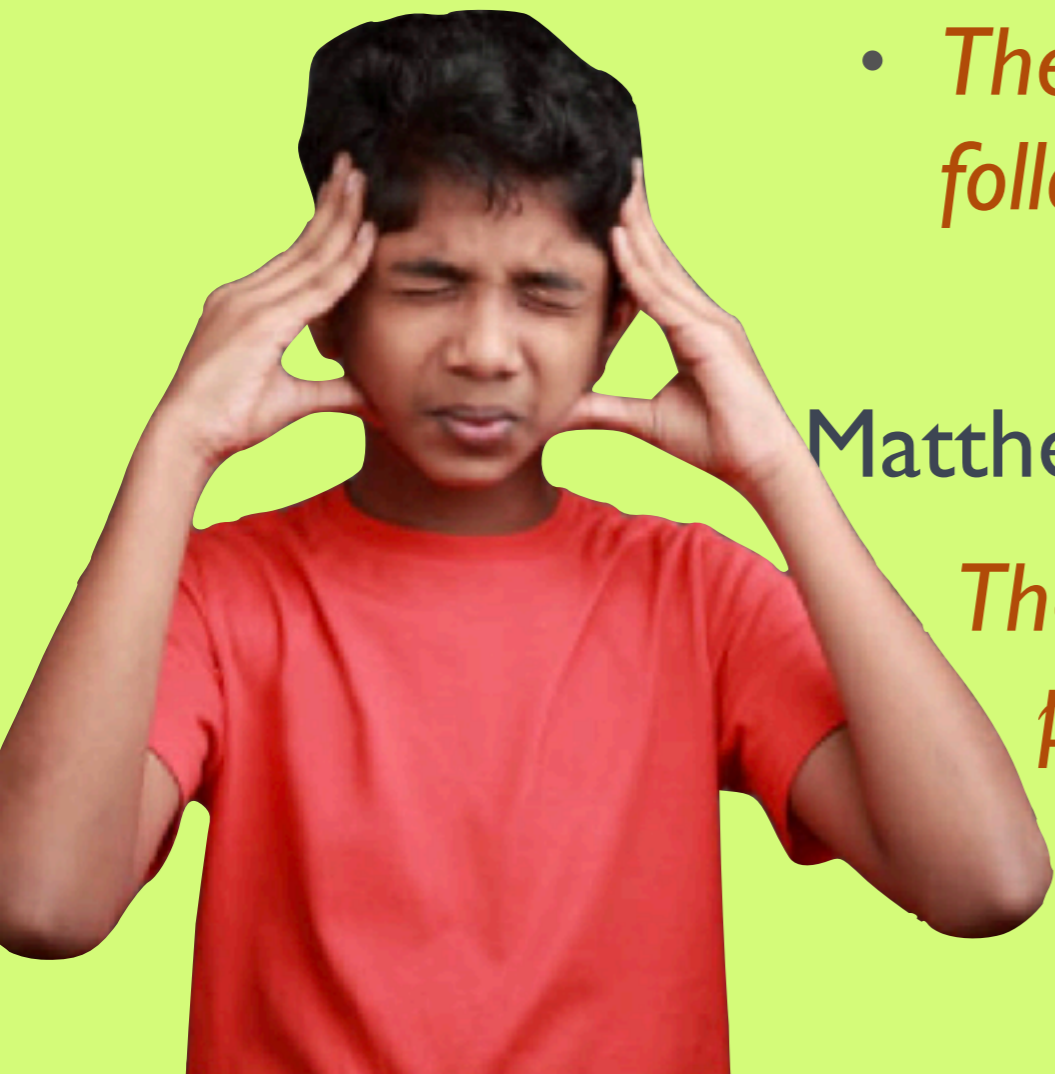
- *The announcement of the betrayer follows the Eucharist -*

*Luke 22:21 & Jn 13:18*

Matthew and Mark seem to suggest - **NO**

*The announcement of the betrayer precedes the Eucharist, such that Judas would have likely left before -*

*Matthew 26:21 & Mark 14:18*



# JUDAS & PETER



# JUDAS BETRAYAL

- Read John 13: 21-30\* - The Announcement
- Judas not only abandons Our Lord but **betrays him and sells him.**
- **Betrayal by an intimate friend** is something much more painful and cruel than **betrayal by a stranger**, for it involves a lack of loyalty to an existing relationship.
  - As such Jesus was deeply troubled - at more than the **event** of a betrayal to the high priests, but **its source - a companion** of three years.

# JUDAS BETRAYAL

- **Reclining at table** - On important occasions the customary thing was to eat reclining on a kind of divan called a triclinium. **The guest rested on his left elbow and ate with his right hand.**
- This meant it was **easy for John to lean on the person to his left** and talk to him without people hearing.
  - **When Jesus dipped and handed a morsel to Judas, none except John understood the significance of the gesture.**

# JUDAS BETRAYAL

- After he took the morsel, Satan entered Judas.
  - So Jesus said to him: “What you are going to do, do quickly.” Christ was not going to hinder Judas.
  - It is clear that Jesus perceived the demonic possession event - The spiritual battle foretold in Genesis between the Snake and the second Adam was under way.
- John might have observed the possession as well. Judas might have been seated on the other side of Jesus - so as to receive the morsel.

# JUDAS BETRAYAL

- So Judas took the morsel and left at once.
  - And it was night. (Jn 13:30)



# JUDAS BETRAYAL

- Christ repaid the man who was going to betray him with kindness. He washed his feet, reproved him without bitterness, allowed him a share at the table and his kiss.
- Yet, though Judas did not become better because of these things, Jesus Himself persevered in His love.”  
(St John Chrysostom, Hom. on St John, 71, 3).

# JUDAS BETRAYAL

- **John 13: 28-29** - That anyone in this close fellowship could do this to Jesus was almost beyond comprehension.
- Judas had covered his tracks so well that none of the others suspected him. *Instead they surmised Judas was going to buy supplies or give alms to the poor.*
- Yet, Jesus who had just quoted Ps 41 implicitly, knew of the betrayal explicitly - *foretelling it so they could believe Him when he said it before it happened — that He is the “I AM”.* (John 13:19).

# NEW COMMANDMENT

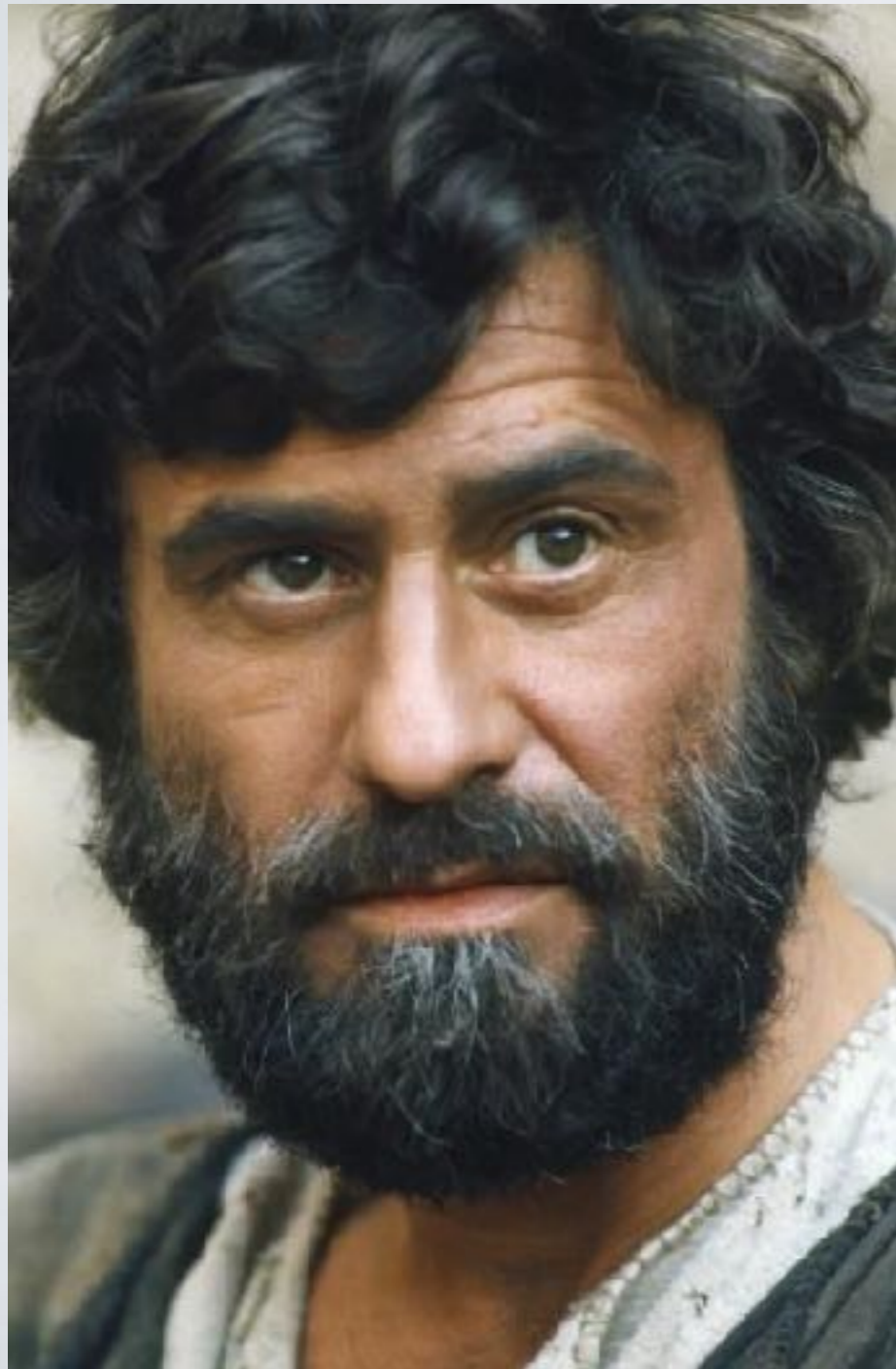
- Jn 13:31-35\* - The New Commandment
  - The glorification refers to the glory which Christ will receive once He is raised up on the cross. (cf. Jn 3:14; 12:32). John stresses that Christ's death is the beginning of His victory: **His very crucifixion can be considered the first step in his ascension to his Father. A grain of wheat that dies.** (cf. Jn 12:24).
  - At the same time it is glorification of the Father, because Christ, **by accepting death out of love, as a supreme act of obedience to the will of God,** performs **the greatest sacrifice** man can offer to God.

# NEW COMMANDMENT

- The new commandment - Love ❤️ one another
  - Not as you love yourself - but more than that!
  - More than would satisfy the **Golden Rule** -  
*(“Do not do unto others what you would not have done unto you”).*
- Jesus raises the bar:  
“Love one another as I have loved you.”
  - Love as God loves! Then others will know you are a disciple of the Son of God.

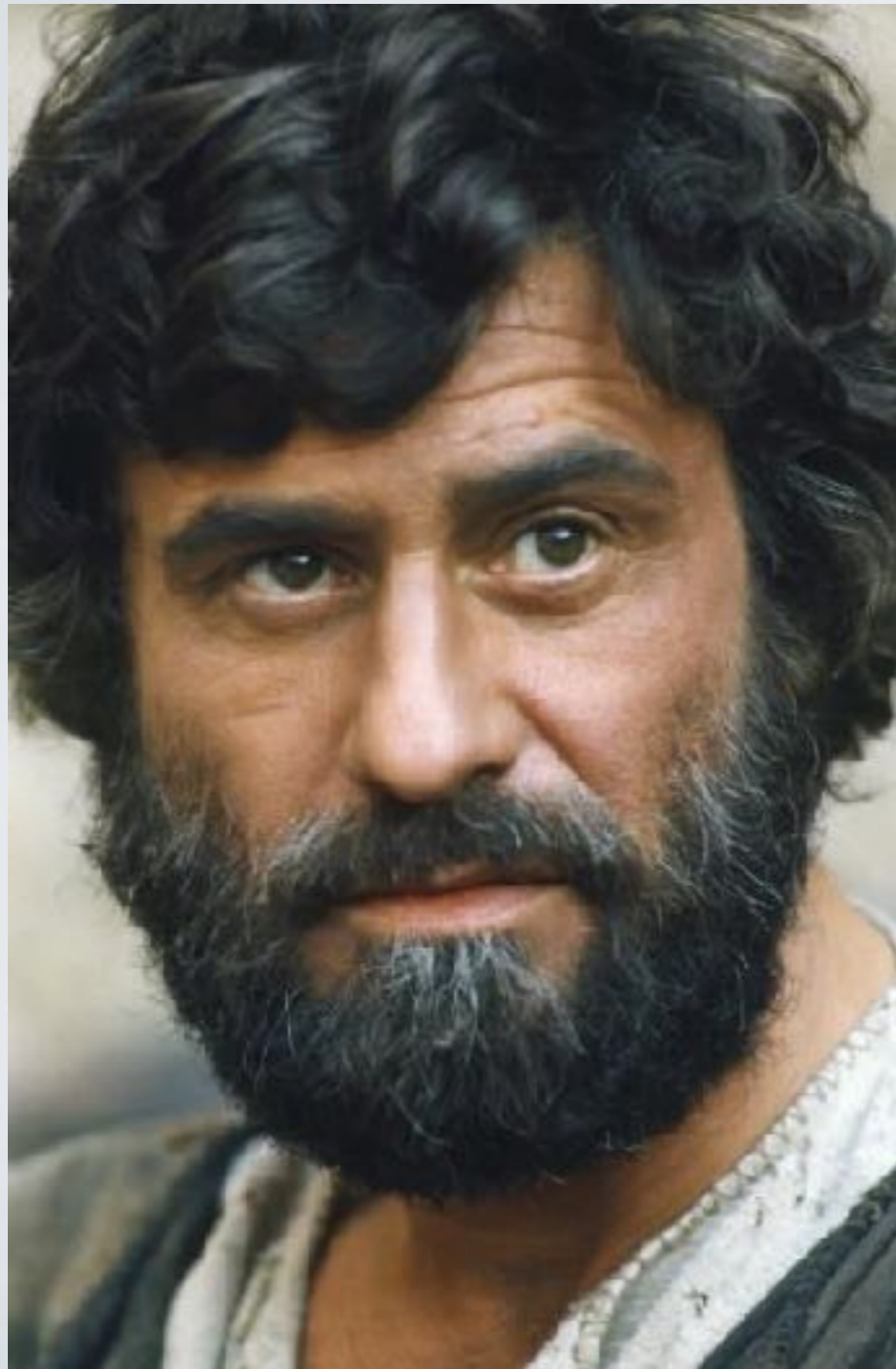


# PETER DENIAL FORETOLD



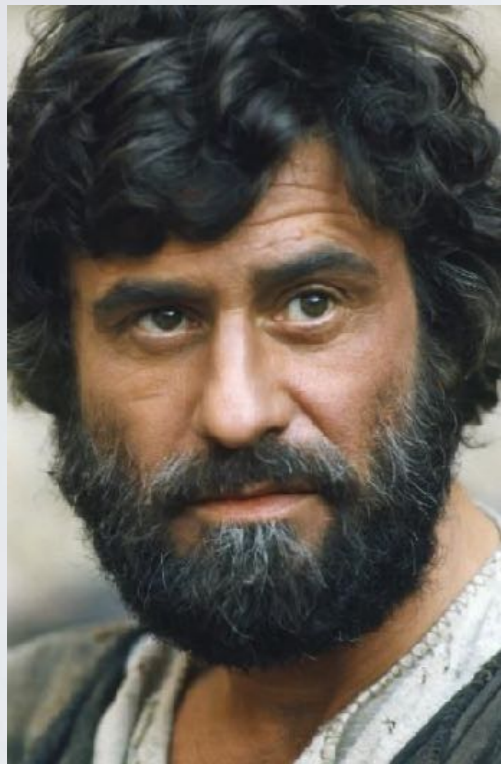
- **John 13: 36-38\*** - You will deny me.
- Jesus has just announced that He will be with them, only a little longer. Peter asks “where are you going?”
  - “Where I am going you will follow later.”
  - Our Lord, *St Augustine comments*, here establishes a delay; *He does not destroy Peter’s hope*, indeed he confirms it by saying, “You shall follow afterwards!”

# PETER DENIAL FORETOLD



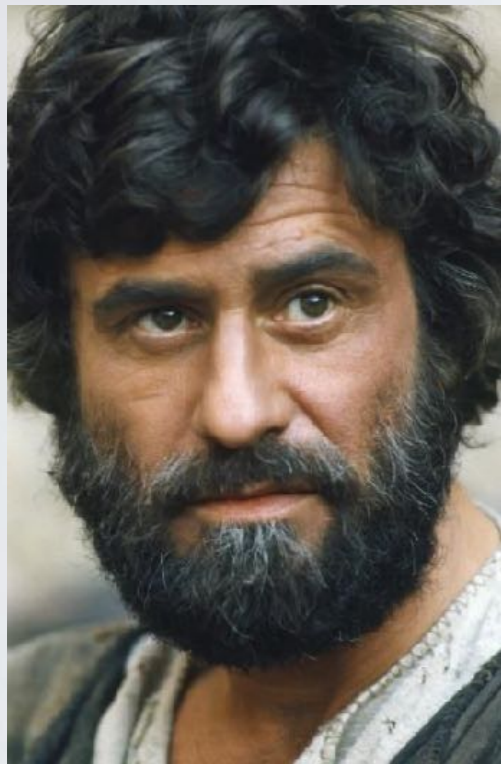
- *Some see in the delay* that Peter will follow Jesus *later to Heaven*, *others see* Peter following to his own *cross in Rome*.
  - Ultimately, Peter does both.
- “I will lay down my life for you.”
- “Amen, Amen I say to you, before the cock crows you will have denied me three times.”

# PETER DENIAL FORETOLD



- Here, I think - John may have constructed his Gospel to give us an insight into Peter's mission, that one might otherwise miss.
- Jesus has just commanded that the Apostles love one another as Jesus has loved them — willing to die for them
- Peter responds that he would die for Jesus. *Message received*, but Jesus has more to accomplish through Peter, that his premature martyrdom would prevent.

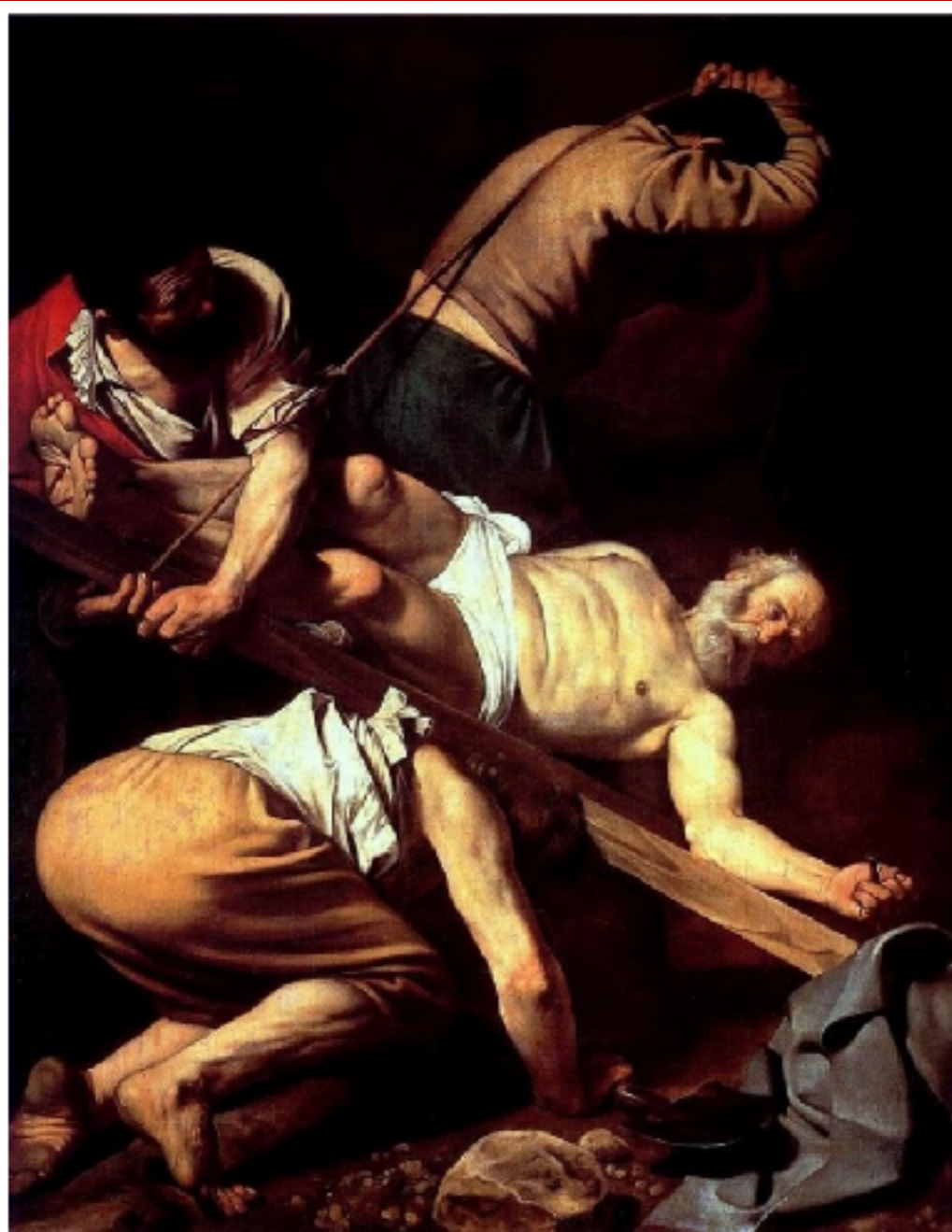
# PETER DENIAL FORETOLD



- If **Jesus' plan** for Peter - first announced in Caesarea Philippi - that **Simon Peter would become his vizier**, was to be accomplished - then **Peter's denial was a necessity** on two accounts:
  - *Like Joseph, the vizier of Pharaoh, Peter was destined to speak for his Master from the office of authority that Jesus gave him.*
  - Additionally, that *rugged pride that made Peter special*, perhaps **needed to be tempered with some humility.**



# PETER DENIAL FORETOLD



Caravaggio - Martyrdom of St Peter

- An additional thought ....
  - The call to Martyrdom is a sobering thought (for me).
  - *I hear some approach a discussion of its call with a certain air of confidence that appears superficial.*
- but if true, I respect that in them - *for I am not so confident* - as I reflect on it.