

Matthew 26:1-5

The Paschal Lamb

Three vital dimensions ...

I. The Darkest Passover

A. The Setting

B. For Crucifixion

II. The "Pious" Plotters

A. Wicked Men

B. Grotesque Hypocrisy

... one Perfect Plan

Children, Listen ...

1. What does Jesus say will happen to Him?
2. Who has been plotting to make this happen?
3. Why did this have to happen to Jesus?
4. Why didn't Jesus stop this from happening?
5. Man did evil things, but Whose plan was this after all?

3 Dimensions 1 Perfect Plan

We enter into Matthew's account of Jesus' Passion in earnest. As we navigate the events that will take us right to the cross three major truths will help us with the big picture behind the details: The Absolute Sovereignty of God – The Darkness of the Devil's Work – and what we might call the "Ground View" of things, in other words the way it all plays out in the material realm. We will need to keep in mind that the series of events from Jesus' arrest to His death and beyond is all by God's perfect design. We can only begin to grasp that when we have some concept of the bigness of God. We will also see the work of the evil one at play, manipulating and orchestrating acts of evil behind the scenes through his dupes and minions. Finally, we will see the humanity of it all – the perfections of Christ – the varied reactions of His followers – and the wicked actions of His enemies. All this takes place in the context of God's plan for redemption of sinners. That brings it home very personally for each one of us as we are either beneficiaries of Jesus' suffering and death or rejectors of the very act, the only thing that can redeem sinful souls from the death sentence of sin.