

I. **Celebrating Christ as Immanuel**

"Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son and they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Matthew 1: 23.

II. **Read this week's story: Matthew 26: 57-75; 27: 1; Mark 14: 53-72; 15: 1; Luke 22: 54-71; John 18: 13-27 DA 75**

III. **For Meditation:**

- a. "Christ was to be tried formally before the Sanhedrin; but before Annas He was subjected to a preliminary trial. Under the Roman rule the Sanhedrin could not execute the sentence of death. They could only examine a prisoner, and pass judgment, to be ratified by the Roman authorities. It was therefore necessary to bring against Christ charges that would be regarded as criminal by the Romans. An accusation must also be found which would condemn Him in the eyes of the Jews... There were two charges which the priests desired to maintain. If Jesus could be proved a blasphemer, He would be condemned by the Jews. If convicted of sedition, it would secure His condemnation by the Romans. The second charge Annas tried first to establish. He questioned Jesus concerning His disciples and His doctrines, hoping the prisoner would say something that would give him material upon which to work. He thought to draw out some statement to prove that He was seeking to establish a secret society, with the purpose of setting up a new kingdom. Then the priests could deliver Him to the Romans as a disturber of the peace and a creator of insurrection" DA 699.
- b. When Jesus was tried before Caiaphas they continued to find some fault with Him. They were having no success and then Caiaphas asked Christ if He was the Christ the Son of God. Jesus said, Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Matthew 26: 64. Why did this become the evidence the Jewish leaders were looking for _____
- c. Peter was outside Caiaphas' Court. Matthew 26: 69-75 tells of Peter's denial of Christ. It seems amazing this happened so soon after Peter assured Christ He would never deny Him. In reading DA 712 what was a contributing factor to Peter's denial of Christ? _____
- d. Judas went through all the work to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (In today's currency about \$6,000.) Yet he soon threw it at the feet of the Jewish leaders and went and hanged himself. What do you believe caused Judas' change of mind about the money and his betrayal? _____

IV. **Prayer this week:**

1. Five People who need your prayer support;
2. Your Church in its witness for Christ;
3. Your Family it will be close and united.
4. The leaders of your church, conference, city and province.
5. That you will have the courage to leave your comfort zone to fulfill a calling from God.

Background

Chronology of Thursday's events--Mid-afternoon: Preparation for Last Supper. 6 pm: Last Supper: Preceded by Jesus washing their feet, they sang Psalms 113-118 at this event; Following the supper on the way to Gethsemane He gave the passionate messages and prayer recorded in John's gospel (John 14-17)—Judas left after the supper to betray Jesus); Perhaps around 10 am they arrive in Gethsemane and Jesus prays His most agonizing prayer asking His disciples to pray with Him. Around 12 midnight: Judas and the mob capture Jesus and take him to trial—the disciples flee; around 1-2 am the appearance before Annas occurs where Jesus' face is slapped; Trial before Annas and Caiaphas and other Sanhedrin members 2-3 am; (During the night Peter denies Jesus three times outside Caiaphas's palace. Today a bronze statue is there picturing Peter in denial); a night appearance before the Sanhedrin where religious leaders seek to form a basis for condemnation 3-4 am: then just after the break of dawn 5-5:30 am, another meeting with the Sanhedrin—they condemn Him for blasphemy (Saying He claimed to be the Son of God). The reason for this second meeting is that no trials were to be allowed at night where death might be a penalty.

Judas left three meetings to negotiate with religious leaders on the betrayal—Saturday night, Tuesday night and Thursday night. How could he have been in fellowship with Jesus and the other disciples during the day while planning betrayal at night?—sin leads to strange behavior.