

Summary of Matthew 26-28, 1 Corinthians 1

Matthew 26 moves decisively toward the cross as Jesus prepares for His suffering and death. Judas agrees to betray Jesus, while Jesus shares the Last Supper with His disciples, reinterpreting the bread and the cup as symbols of His body and blood given for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus predicts Peter's denial, revealing both human weakness and divine foreknowledge. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus wrestles in prayer, submitting fully to the Father's will even as His disciples struggle to stay awake. The chapter ends with Jesus' arrest, His trial before the Sanhedrin, false accusations, and Peter's tragic denial—highlighting the contrast between Jesus' faithfulness and human fear.

Matthew 27 focuses on Jesus' suffering, crucifixion, death, and burial. Jesus stands before Pilate, remains largely silent in the face of false charges, and is handed over to be crucified. He is mocked by soldiers, rejected by the crowds, and nailed to the cross, where He willingly gives His life. At His death, signs accompany the moment—the curtain of the temple is torn, the earth shakes, and tombs are opened—pointing to the cosmic significance of His sacrifice. Jesus is buried in a guarded tomb, seemingly sealing the victory of death, yet God's redemptive plan is still unfolding.

Matthew 28 proclaims the triumph of the resurrection. On the third day, the tomb is found empty, and Jesus appears alive, confirming that death has been defeated. Despite attempts to suppress the truth, the risen Christ meets His disciples and declares that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him. He commissions them to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them to obey everything He commanded. The Gospel ends not with despair, but with mission, promise, and hope—Jesus' assurance that He will be with His followers always, to the very end of the age.

As the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection concludes, 1 Corinthians 1 picks up the theological implications of the cross for the life of the church. The Corinthian believers are divided over leaders and personalities, boasting in human wisdom and status. Paul repeatedly contrasts human wisdom with the wisdom of God revealed in the cross—a message that appears foolish and weak to the world, yet is the very power of God for salvation. The same Jesus who willingly suffered, died, and rose again becomes the lens through which all claims of wisdom, power, leadership, and identity must now be evaluated.

Reflection Questions

1. What does Jesus' willingness to submit to the Father's will in Gethsemane teach us about obedience when following God is painful or costly?
2. How do Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial reveal different ways people can fail Jesus, and what do they show us about repentance and restoration?
3. In what ways does the crucifixion challenge the world's understanding of wisdom, success, and power, especially in light of Paul's teaching in 1 Corinthians 1?
4. What is the significance of the curtain of the temple being torn at Jesus' death, and how does it reshape our access to God?
5. Why is the resurrection essential to the Christian faith, and how does it transform fear, doubt, and despair into mission and hope?
6. What does it practically look like to obey the Great Commission in everyday life, not just in overseas missions but in ordinary relationships?
7. How do divisions in the Corinthian church reflect the temptation to boast in leaders, personalities, or human wisdom rather than in Christ alone?
8. Where do you see the tension between God's wisdom and the world's wisdom in your own life, and how does the cross reorient what you value most?