

Holy Week

The Descent and The Covenant



Monday

Jesus curses the fig tree and clears the Temple

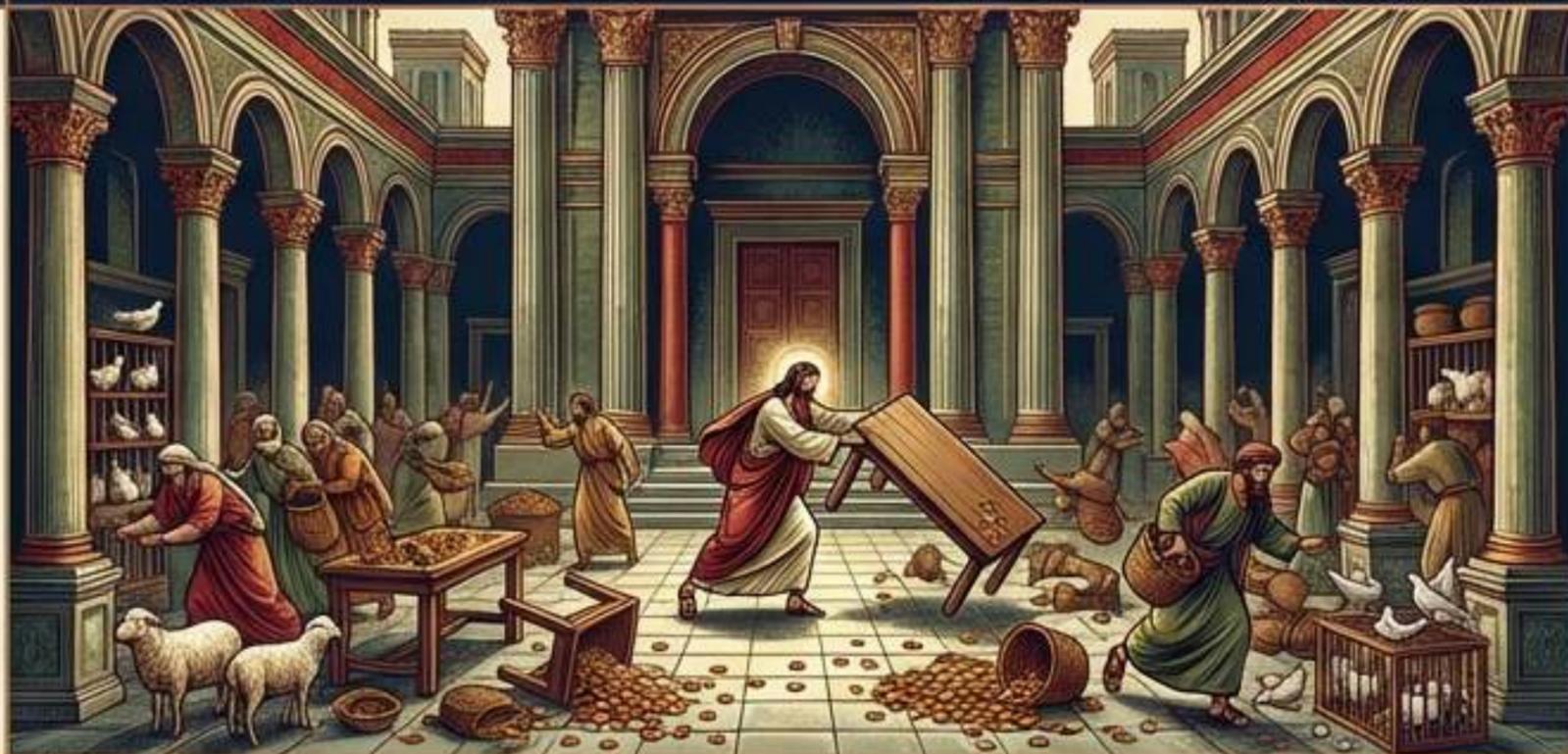
Scriptures to read: Matthew 21:12–22, Mark 11:15–19, Luke 19:45–48, and John 2:13–17.



The Fig Tree

Jesus, traveling from Bethany and hungry, approaches a fig tree. Finding only leaves, he issues a physical judgment against barrenness.

“May no one ever eat fruit from you again.”



The Temple

Jesus enters the main temple in Jerusalem. Finding the courts full of people buying, selling, and scamming—permitted by religious leaders—he flips the tables.

“The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be a house of prayer,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves.”

Scriptural Record:

Matthew 21:12-22, Mark 11:15-19, Luke 19:45-48, John 2:13-17

Prophecy Fulfilled (Isaiah 56:6-7):

...for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

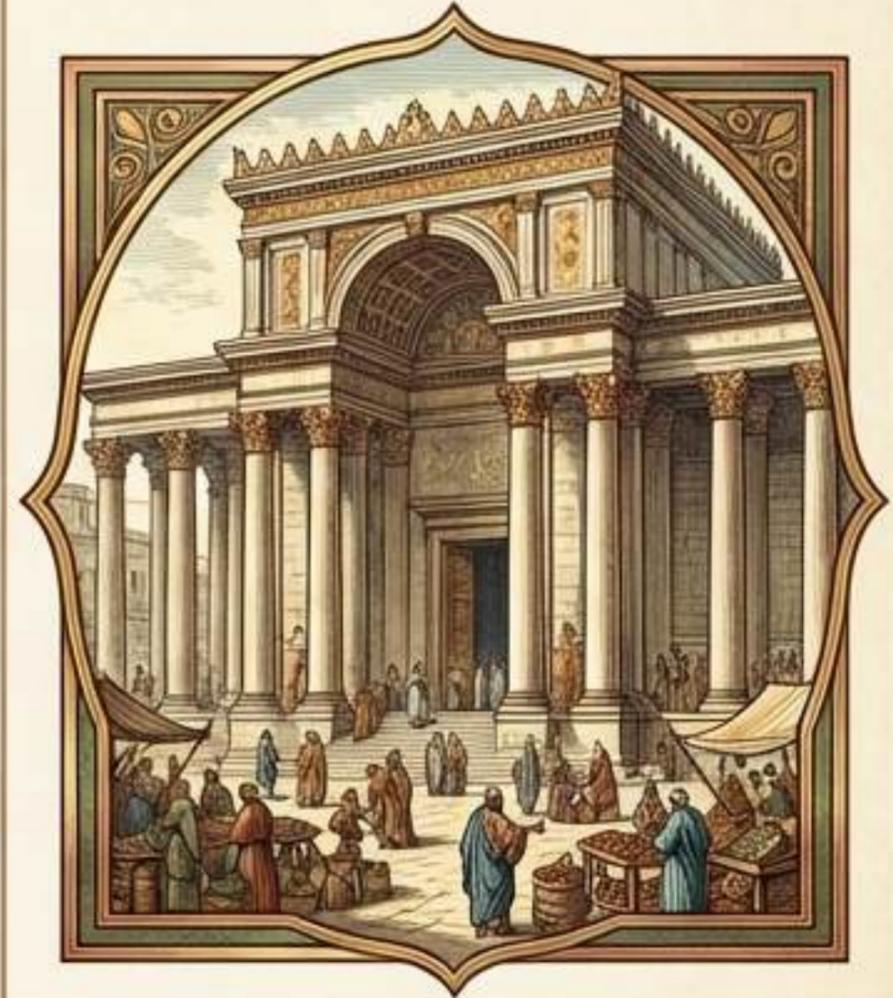
The Fruitless Tree & The Corrupt Temple



The Illusion of Life: Both looked good and vibrant from a distance or on the outside.

Spiritual Barrenness: Upon closer inspection, both were entirely dead and lacked any genuine fruit.

Divine Consequence: Both faced immediate judgment and clearing from God.



The physical curse on the fig tree served as a living metaphor and warning against the spiritually dead religious leaders, and a warning to all believers against outward appearances that mask inner barrenness.

Monday's Guided Prayer

Lord Jesus, you have a heart for justice and for things to be as they are. The fig tree and the temple from a distance looked fruitful and whole, but upon getting closer you saw that the tree didn't bear any fruit and the temple was being turned into a marketplace. Lord you said to the Pharisees and teachers, "You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. 28 In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness" Matthew 23:27-28 Lord, we repent for times where we present ourselves as more than we truly are, or attempt any way to hide what is inside. Help us not be like a whitewashed tomb, with the inside full of dead rotting bones. Lord, I ask you to fill me with your love and Holy Spirit. Clean me and wash me from all iniquity and sin. In Jesus name, amen.

Tuesday

Jesus debates religious leaders and teaches on the
Mount of Olives

Scriptures to read: Matthew 21:23–24:51, Mark 11:20–13:37, Luke 20:1–21:36, and John 12:20–38.

The Authority Debate

The Challenge

“By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”

The Religious Leaders

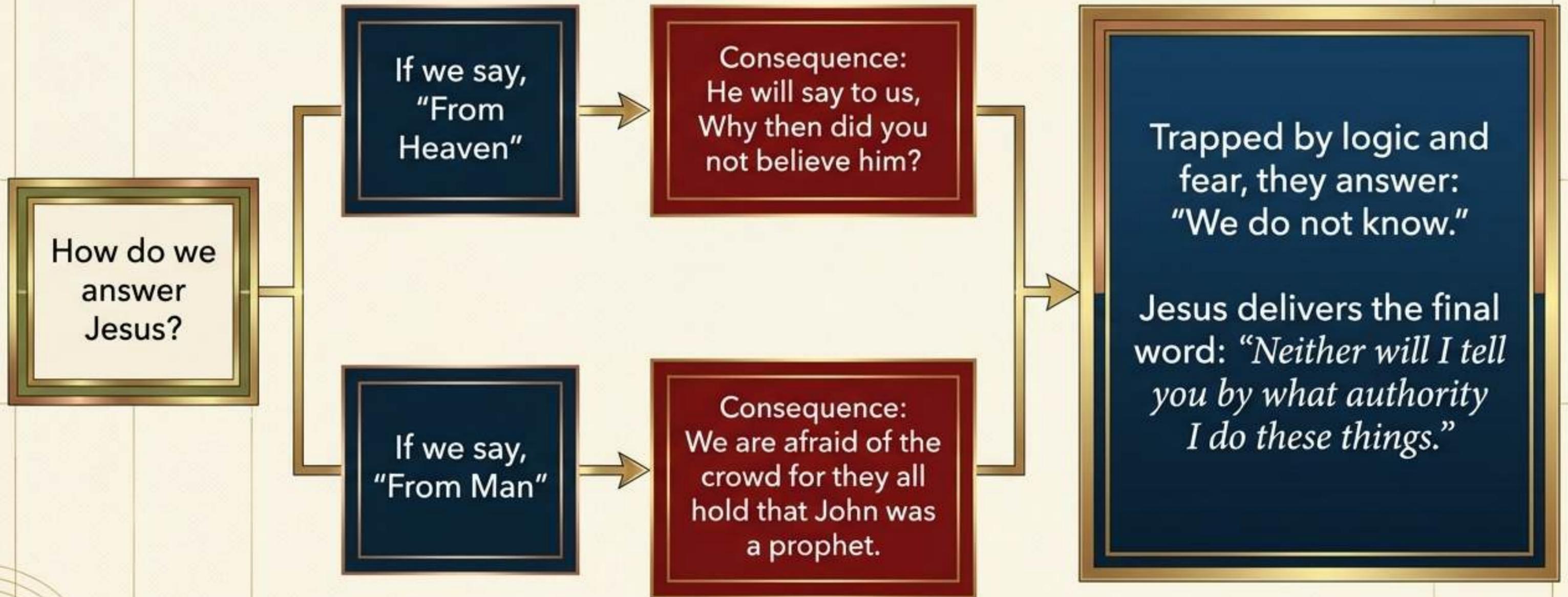


The Counter

“I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?”

Jesus

The Authority Matrix: The Pharisees' Trap



Tuesday's Guided Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for your holiness and wisdom. The religious leaders tried to capture you in their tricky questions, but you O'Lord are above all and gave perfect answers. Jesus, you are wisdom personified! Lord, I ask that you help me to be slow to speak and slow to anger. I ask for your wisdom and love for when I interact with others who challenge me or who are hard to be around, help me love them Lord.

Lord, let me also not forget that you are coming back, and let us not be like the virgins who didn't have oil in their lamp and had to go and get some, hence missing your return. Keep our lamps burning with your Holy Spirit, keep us burning, Lord, and expectant for your return.

In Jesus name, Amen

Wednesday

Jesus is anointed and betrayed

Scriptures to read: Matthew 26:14-25, Luke 22:3-6, John 12:1-11

The Olivet Discourse

- Jesus withdraws to his regular place of prayer, the Mount of Olives.
- Delivers the 'Seven Woes' against religious hypocrisy.
- Prophesies the end of the age and the final judgment.

“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

The Secret Plot

- The chief priests and elders gather in the palace of Caiaphas.
- Driven by the public humiliation of the temple clearing and authority debates.
- They conspire in the shadows to arrest Jesus stealthily and kill him.



The Anointing at Bethany



A Period of Pause: Jesus and the disciples rested for most of the day.



Bethany: At the house of Simon the leper, Jesus is reclining at the table.



A woman approaches with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment and pours it on his head.



Disciples grow frustrated. "Why this waste? It could have been sold and given to the poor!"



Jesus intervenes: "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me... In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial."

The Devotion vs. Betrayal Matrix

The Woman (Devotion)	Judas Iscariot (Betrayal)
<p>Action Poured out an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment.</p>	<p>Action Approached the chief priests: "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" Received thirty pieces of silver.</p>
<p>Motivation Uncalculated Sacrifice and Devotion.</p>	<p>Motivation Greed and Betrayal.</p>
<p>Result Jesus decrees: "Wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."</p>	<p>Result "From that moment Judas sought for an opportunity to betray him" (Matt 26:14-16).</p>

The Prophetic Echoes

Psalm 41:9

“Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.”

Zechariah 11:12-13

“...And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver. Then the Lord said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter’...”

The Fulfillment

Judas Iscariot, a trusted friend, negotiates the exact lordly price of thirty pieces of silver to betray Jesus to the chief priests.



Wednesday's Guided Prayer

Lord, you are worthy of all my life and all my praise. I want to come humbly before your throne and ask for your forgiveness for all the ways I have been like Judas, where I have traded you for pieces of silver; when I have chosen comfort over obedience, hate over love, and gone back to my sin again and again, and all the other ways I have betray you Jesus. O'God, would you help me by your grace! Create in me a clean heart, God, and renew a right spirit within me. Teach me to know your ways, O Lord, and lead me in life everlasting. Help me to love you and others, Lord!

In Jesus mighty name, Amen

Maundy Thursday

Jesus shares a meal with his disciples and prays in
the garden of Gethsemane

Scriptures to read: Matthew 26:17–75, Mark 14:12–72, Luke 22:7–62, and John 13:1–38.

The Sacred Ledger.

The Request



First day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

The disciples ask:

“Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

The Instructions



Jesus directs them into the city to a certain man.

Minion Pro

“The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.”

The Gathering



The disciples prepare the Passover as directed.

Evening falls, and Jesus reclines at the table with the Twelve.

The Betrayal Revealed

Jesus states, 'one of you will betray me.' The sad disciples ask, 'Surely you don't mean me, Lord?' Jesus identifies the betrayer as the one who dipped his hand in the bowl.

Warning: "Woe to that man... better for him if he had not been born." Judas asks, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?" Jesus replies: "You have said so."

The Covenant Established

The Bread:

He breaks it and gives thanks.
'Take and eat; this is my body.'

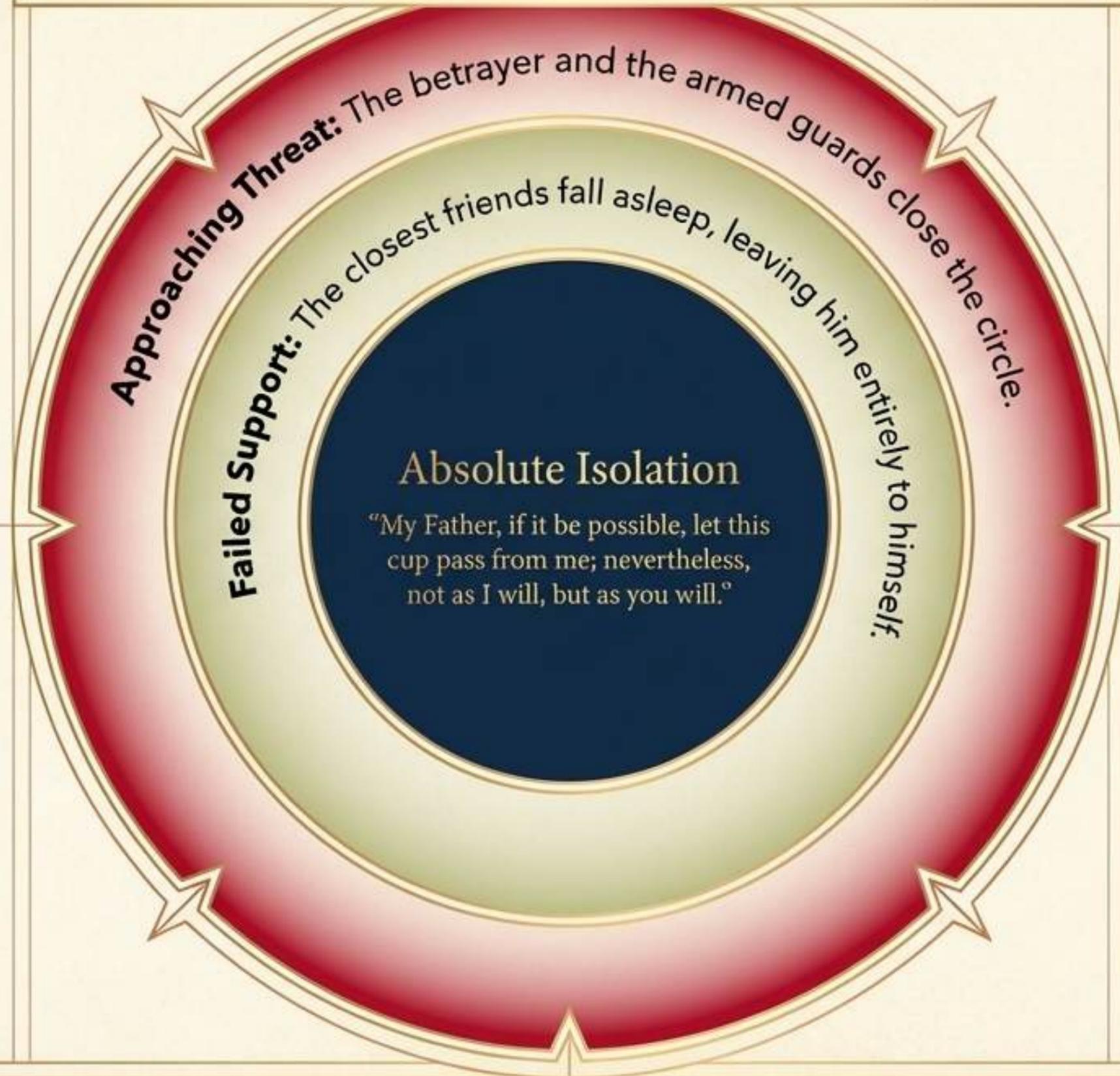
The Cup:

He gives thanks.
'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'

The Promise:

He vows not to drink from the fruit of the vine again until he drinks it in the Father's kingdom (Matt 26:21-29).

The Gethsemane Isolation Ring



Thursday's Guided Prayer

Jesus, you knew that Judas, one of the 12, was going to betray you, but you loved him until the very end. Lord, help me love those who I struggle to love. I need your loving kindness and grace. Lord, I am also aware, that my flesh is weak and that I am just like the disciples who fell asleep while you were needing companions. Help me take up my cross and crucify my flesh daily Lord, so that I can live a life that is obedient and pleasing to you.

In Jesus name, amen.

