



MATTHEW

The Savior-King and His Kingdom

The King's Last Supper!

Matthew 26:17-35

Message #72 of 80 – S1112

Sermon given on July 28, 2024



Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The King's Last Supper!

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Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Matthew 26**
- Today, we continue a series through the gospel of Matthew – **The Savior-King and His Kingdom**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The King's Last Supper!**
- What if you knew when you would be eating your last meal?
- Who would you want to be there and what would you want to say to those gathered?
- That is the scene for today's text.
- Matthew gives us a brief look at an event we call the Last Supper.
- This is the last meal Jesus ate before He was crucified.
- This several hour event included many things Matthew didn't include that the other gospel writers did.
- Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and them quarreling over who would be the greatest.
- John's gospel includes several chapters of things Jesus taught the disciples.
- For the sake of time, we will limit ourselves to what Matthew wrote.
- **Matthew 26:17-18**
- Some believe this was the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, who would later write the gospel of Mark.
- It is also believed that this is the place where the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of Pentecost.
- The Passover meal was a very ritualized process.
- Everything had meaning and symbolism to remind the Israelites of their deliverance by God from the bondage of Egypt.
- Jesus and the disciples were all Jews, and each had participated in many Passover meals.
- I wonder if any of them understood the significance of this one.

- **Matthew 26:19**
- Mark's gospel tells us that it was Peter and John who were sent to prepare the meal.
- **Matthew 26:20-21**
- This would be near the end of the meal, after most of the rituals of the Passover meal were done.
- The Passover meal was a celebration of God's grace, mercy, and power.
- The mood at the table would have been light and joyous.
- And then Jesus drops a bombshell – 'one of you will betray Me.'
- I can imagine absolute silence at the table as the disciples look at Jesus in disbelief, and then at each other – who would do that?
- **Matthew 26:22**
- How did Judas feel as Jesus said that?
- He was actively working to betray Jesus. Did he feel anything?
- Upon hearing this, it does not seem that anyone turned to glare and point at Judas.
- None of them are looking around in suspicion at the others.
- Each one is consumed by their own question, "Lord, is it I?"
- Could I be the one?
- In this room with Christ's closest followers, they can see no one more likely to betray Jesus than themselves.
- Each of them was exceedingly sorrowful, because they could not see someone else who was more capable of betrayal than themselves.
- In the perfection of Christ's presence, their human weakness is clear to them.
- They were aware of their human weakness and so were not certain in their heart that they couldn't be the one to betray Him.
- What was Judas feeling and thinking in this moment?
- Was there even a flicker of guilt about what he was planning to do?
- Was there a moment of hesitation knowing that Jesus knew what he was planning?
- **Matthew 26:23**

- John’s gospel tells us that Jesus dipped a morsel bread and then handed it to Judas.
- Judas is likely to have been seated right next to Jesus, a place of honor at the table.
- Even now, as Judas is actively planning to betray Jesus, the Lord treats Judas with love and respect and even seems to honor him.
- Christ’s love for us is amazing, even for those who will betray Him.
- What was coming was not a surprise to Jesus.

- **Matthew 26:24**

- Jesus inspired writers in the Old Testament to write about it (Psalm 22; **Daniel 9:26**).

And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself...

- That was a prediction that the Messiah would die as an innocent Man.
- Psalm 22 even describes many things about the way Jesus would die.
- ‘...woe to that man...’ – Jesus is warning Judas of the consequences for his betrayal. It was not too late.
- He had taken money to betray Jesus, but he hadn’t done it yet.
- There was still time – there was still hope for Judas.

- **Matthew 26:25**

- Jesus knew who Judas was when He picked Him (**John 6:64**).
- **“But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him.**
- Christ’s love for Judas was not any different than His love for the other disciples.
- For three years of living and ministering together, Christ’s love had hidden who Judas was from the others.
- Judas was among the Twelve because someone was needed who could experience the love of Christ for three years and then betray Him for thirty pieces of silver. Judas knew he was the one.
- John’s gospel tells us that immediately after this interaction, Satan entered Judas and he left to betray Jesus. Now it was too late!
- Then Jesus instituted something we do regularly in the church.
- **Matthew 26:26-28**
- ‘This is My blood...’ does not mean that the wine turned into blood.
- The Law of Moses strictly forbids consuming of blood.

- It would have horrified the disciples if Jesus had asked them to drink human blood.
- What He was saying is that cup was a symbol of the blood He must shed so that they and all of us could be forgiven of our sins.
- This points to Jesus' propitiatory death for the sins of the whole world.
- The Lord spoke through Isaiah about this (**Isaiah 53:12**).

Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

- The shedding of innocent blood was one of the key parts of all covenants God made with mankind.
 - It was meant to signify the seriousness of a covenant with God.
 - Something must be done with the debt we owe God for our sin.
 - Because we are incapable of doing that for ourselves, God sent Jesus to do it for us.
 - From the earliest pages of the Bible, an innocent had to shed its blood to deal with our sin problem.
 - That was first done when God killed animals to make coverings for Adam and Eve.
 - After thousands of years, it is still the same, an innocent must shed its blood to deal with our sin (**Hebrews 9:22**).
- And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.**
- 'new covenant' – The new covenant replaces the old Mosaic covenant.
 - Jesus' sacrifice put an end to the need for countless innocent animals to be sacrificed every day.
 - His one sacrifice, once for all, took the place of millions of sacrifices.
 - Now, we are made right with God not by the shedding of the innocent blood of an animal but by faith in the innocent Lamb of God Jesus and His perfect sacrifice.
 - Betrayal was coming, but Jesus also could see past it to His victory.
 - **Matthew 26:29**
 - Even before Jesus goes to the cross, He is declaring victory over the dark forces ruling this world.

- The kingdom of God is coming, and Jesus will sit on the throne at the right hand of His Father in that kingdom.
- Nothing in heaven or on earth can stop it. Jesus will reign victoriously.
- As believers we must often remind ourselves of Christ's victory.
- One of the realities of Communion is that we are joining ourselves to Christ's suffering.
- And when we join ourselves to Christ's suffering, we are also joining ourselves to His victory.
- No matter how hard life might get, we stand on the victory Christ won at the cross (**Ephesians 6:12-13**).

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places*.¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

- If the spiritual battle gets tough, remind yourself that Jesus wins and when we stand with Him, we win.
- Jesus closes our text for the day with a psalm and a prediction about how the disciples will respond to Judas' betrayal.
- **Matthew 26:30-35**
- Jesus knew death was very close, but He also knew His death was temporary. On the third day, Jesus rose again.
- Peter's pride reaches its highest point here.
- This very night his pride would be broken in a way that changes him forever.
- The other gospels include other details about this night.
- I would especially encourage you to read John 13 to 17 which includes Jesus washing the feet of the disciples and the Upper Room Discourse.
- Next time we will see our Savior in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- And after that comes the betrayal, the abuse, the false trials, and then the Romans take over, who mock, scourge, and then crucify Jesus.
- Even though I have studied and taught these things many times, it still makes me queasy every time.
- How could they do these things to Jesus – He who has loved me for my whole life, even while I rejected Him.

- If you think of me during these next few weeks, pray for me.
- As hard as these things are, I know they lead to something so glorious that it became the foundation for the gospel – Jesus died and then on the third day He rose from the dead – never to die again.
- Thankfully, there was only one Judas Iscariot.
- But even as the other eleven disciples asked, ‘Lord, is it I,’ we must examine our life to make sure no part of it betrays Christ’s love for us.
- Caleb was one of the twelve spies sent into the Promised Land, and along with Joshua he believed God would give it to them.
- God blessed him because he ‘wholly followed the Lord his God’.
- Don’t focus on not betraying the Lord, focus on wholly following Jesus.
- Let’s pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us do that!
- **Pray! Last Song!**