

Matthew 26:17-35 - The King's Last Supper!

Scriptures:

17 Now on the first ¹² *day of the Feast* of

Notes:
'to prepare' – The Passover meal.

Unleavened Bread the disciples ¹² came to

Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us ¹²

to prepare for You to eat the Passover?"

Scriptures:

18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain

Notes:

Some believe this was the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark. It is also believed that this is the place where the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the day of Pentecost.

man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My

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.

time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at

G2540 -

your house with My disciples." ' ' "

Scriptures:

19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed

Notes:

them; and they prepared the Passover.

Scriptures:

20 When evening had come, He sat down with

Notes:

the twelve.

Scriptures:

21 Now as they were eating, He said,

Notes:

“Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray

G3860 – hand
over to the
authority.

Me.”

Scriptures:

22 And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and

G4970 –
extremely.

G3076 – sad,
distressed.

Notes:

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. In the perfection of Christ’s presence, their human weakness is clear to them. They had walked with Jesus for three years. That had to have had an impact on them. They were not the same men they were when Jesus first called them three years earlier. They were aware of their human weakness and so were not certain in their heart that they wouldn’t be the one to betray Him.

If Jesus were here right now, and said that one of us would betray Him, how would we respond? It is something to think about.

each of them began to say to Him, “Lord, is it

I?”

Scriptures:

23 He answered and said, “He who dipped *his*

Notes:

John’s gospel tells us that Jesus dipped a morsel bread and then handed it to Judas. Judas is likely to have 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.

hand with Me in the dish will betray Me.

Scriptures:
Daniel 9:26a - And after the
sixty-two weeks Messiah
shall be cut off, but not for
Himself...

24 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is

written of Him, but woe to that man by whom

the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have

been good for that man if he had not been

born.”

Notes:

‘...as it is written of Him...’ – The betrayal and death of Jesus is not a surprise to Him. He inspired writers in the Old Testament to write about it (Psalm 22; Daniel 9:26).

‘...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.

Scriptures:

John 6:63-64 - It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.
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.

25 Then Judas, who was betraying Him,

answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to

him, "You have said it."

Notes:

Why would Judas ask if it was him? Is it because everyone else was asking and he didn't want to be found out by the others?

"...Judas in his unbelief served God's purposes." Myron Augsburger – page 272

Jesus knew who Judas was when He picked Him (John 6:63-64). 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. By saying this, Jesus was giving him one last chance to change the course he was on. God keeps reaching out to the lost. And so should we. Judas was unwilling to hear Christ's loving warning of coming judgment.

John's gospel tells us that immediately after this interaction, Satan entered Judas and he left to betray Jesus.

Scriptures:

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took

Notes:

This is the institution of the Lord's Supper or Communion or Eucharist.

Jesus takes the bread and the cup and changes their meaning to symbolize God's deliverance of mankind from the bondage of sin by the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son Jesus.

bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave *it* to the

Jesus is saying He is giving His body and blood to death for us. When we partake of Communion we are committing to give our life to Jesus to death.

disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My

body."

G4983 -

Scriptures:

27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks,

Notes:

and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all

of you.

Scriptures:
Hebrews 9:22 - And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

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.

28 For this is My blood of the new covenant,

G129 -

G2537 -

G1242 -

which is shed for many for the remission of

G859 -
forgiveness.

xxx
sins.

Notes:

'This is My blood...' does not mean that the wine turned into blood. The Law of Moses strictly forbid 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.

Remission: the act of reducing or canceling the amount of money that you owe.

This points to Jesus' propitiatory death for the sins of the whole world. The Lord spoke through Isaiah about this (Isaiah 53:12). 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 Jesus 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).

'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.

Scriptures:

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.

29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit

of the vine from now on until that day when I

drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

Notes:

Even before Jesus goes to the cross Jesus 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). If the spiritual battle gets tough, remind yourself that Jesus wins and when we stand with Him, we win.

Scriptures:

30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went

out to the Mount of Olives.

Notes:

Matthew was the only that recorded them singing a hymn. This was a normal part of the Passover meal.

Scriptures:
Zechariah 13:7 -
Awake, O sword, against
My Shepherd,
Against the Man who is
My Companion,"
Says the LORD of hosts.
"Strike the Shepherd,
And the sheep will be
scattered;
Then I will turn My hand
against the little ones.

31 Then Jesus said to them, "All of you

will be made to stumble because of Me this

G4624 -
σκανδαλιζομαι
(skandalizomai) -

Notes:
Even though Jesus told them
repeatedly what was coming, the
disciples were not ready when it
happened. To stumble includes the
idea of being disheartened, and even
questioning what they believe.

Quote is from (Zechariah 13:7).

night, for it is written: 'I will strike the

Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be

scattered.'

Scriptures:

32 But after I have been raised, I will go before

G1453 - to resurrect ⇔ wake up v. — to resurrect, conceived of as waking up and arising (out of bed).

Notes:

Jesus knew death was very close, but He also knew His death was temporary. On the third day, Jesus rose again.

you to Galilee.”

Scriptures:

33 Peter answered and said to Him, “Even if all

Notes:

are made to stumble because of You, I will

never be made to stumble.”

Scriptures:

34 Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you

Notes:

that this night, before the rooster crows,

you will deny Me three times.”

G533 – “claim no knowledge or relationship to...”

Scriptures:

35 Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with

Notes:

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.

You, I will not deny You!” And so said all the

disciples.

[Top of section](#) [Top of chapter](#)