

LAST SUPPER

Matthew 26:17-75, Mark 14:12-72, Luke 22:7-62, John 13:1-38

Holy Week takes a sombre turn on Thursday. From Bethany, Jesus sent Peter and John ahead to the Upper Room in Jerusalem to make the preparations for the Passover Feast. That evening after sunset, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as they prepared to share in the Passover. By performing this humble act of service, Jesus demonstrated by example how believers are to love one another. Today, many churches practice foot-washing ceremonies as a part of their Maundy Thursday services.

Then Jesus shared the feast of Passover with his disciples, saying: "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." (*Luke 22:15-16*) As the Lamb of God, Jesus was about to fulfil the meaning of Passover by giving his body to be broken and his blood to be shed in sacrifice, freeing us from sin and death. During this Last Supper, Jesus established the Lord's Supper, or Communion, instructing his followers to continually remember his sacrifice by sharing in the elements of bread and wine (*Luke 22:19-20*).

Later, Jesus and the disciples left the Upper Room and went to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed in agony to God the Father. Luke's Gospel says that "his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground." (*Luke 22:44*) Late that evening in Gethsemane, Jesus was betrayed with a kiss by Judas Iscariot and arrested by the Sanhedrin. He was taken to the home of Caiaphas, the High Priest, where the whole council had gathered to begin making their case against Jesus. Meanwhile, in the early morning hours, as Jesus' trial was getting underway, Peter denied knowing his Master three times before the rooster crowed.

Questions

1. Do you identify with the disciples here?
2. What does the table symbolise to you?
3. Who was included at the table?

Changing Your Mind

This significant moment is forever edged into the memory of humanity. When you look at artwork of the last supper, Jesus washing the disciple's feet (*John 13:1-17*) you will notice all the disciples there. In most, if not all artwork, Judas and Peter are visible. And if you look closer - you would see a little money bag in Judas' hand. It's fascinating that Jesus knows who will betray Him (*Matthew 26:20*) - Judas - and who will deny Him (*Matt 26:31-35*) - Peter - And they both have a seat at the table. And both their feet are washed by Jesus Himself. Think about it.

Moving Forward

Who do we include at the table? Whose feet are we willing to wash? Jesus has included Humanity in His completed work. Knowing that he would be betrayed and denied. And still, he loves and serves. Meditate on this day and all its implications. Then focus on the applications on your life as a believer. Our prayer is that you would see yourself in all the elements of this day. And that your spirit is prepared for the next 3 days. The death, tomb and resurrection.

