

Last Supper

(Luke 22:1-20; Mark 14:17-21)

Introduction

What was the most famous meal in the Bible and who ate it?

Mealtime is great time for friends and family to talk. It's a time when each person around the table can find out special things about the others. But, if you were about to die and you knew this was the last time you would be with your very best friends, what would you want to tell them? How do you think Jesus felt at the Last Supper, knowing that the next day he would have to go through a horrible, painful death on the cross?

Opening Prayer

Father, I pray that You will help us all be especially sensitive to the Holy Spirit this morning so that we might not miss a single lesson You want to teach us. Help our minds to concentrate on You; give us wisdom and insight into Your ways. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold! The lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" (John 1:29).

Lesson

On the day before Jesus died on the cross, Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, played a dirty trick on Jesus.

Luke 22:1-2

*The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is also called Passover, was approaching. (2) The leading priests and teachers of religious law were plotting how to kill Jesus, but **they were afraid of the people's reaction.***

The people had seen the mighty works that Jesus had done. He had healed the sick and made the blind to see and had fed 5,000 people with only two fish and five small loaves of bread. So, they followed after Him everywhere He went. They wanted to hear every word He said; they knew He had special powers from God. The rulers of the Jews were jealous of Jesus' popularity and they wanted to kill Him, but they knew they needed to do it secretly so the people didn't rise up against them. So, they plotted how to arrest Jesus in a secluded place

Luke 22:3-6

*Then **Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, (4) and he went to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard to discuss the best way to betray Jesus to them. (5) They were delighted, and they promised to give him money. (6) So he agreed and began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus so they could arrest him when the crowds weren't around.***

It says that Satan entered Judas and he went out and made a deal with the chief priests to take them to Jesus in an out-of-the-way place so they could arrest Him. If Judas had truly believed that Jesus was the Messiah, Satan could not have entered Him. If you are a true believer in Jesus, Satan cannot enter you.

Meanwhile, Jesus and His disciples were looking for a place to eat the Passover meal.

The Passover was a special time each year when the Jews remembered how God had protected them from death and set them free from slavery many years before. God had said that the first-born son in every family in Egypt would die, but He made a way for the Israelites to escape death. God told them to kill a lamb and paint its blood on the doorframes of their houses. God passed over the houses that had lamb's blood on their doorways and didn't kill the first-born son. The blood protected the Israelites when the death angel passed through Egypt. So, every year to this date, the Jews celebrate Passover by having a special lamb dinner.

Luke 22:7-8

Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread arrived, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed. (8) Jesus sent Peter and John ahead and said, "Go and prepare the Passover meal, so we can eat it together."

The Passover meal is very special. There are lots of things you have to prepare for the celebration: unleavened bread, bitter herbs, wine, saltwater, and other special foods. The disciples had to buy and prepare the lamb as well as.

So, Jesus sent Peter and John into the city to prepare the Passover meal.

Luke 22:9-13

*"Where do you want us to prepare it?" they asked him. (10) He replied, "As soon as you enter Jerusalem, **a man carrying a pitcher of water** will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, (11) say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' (12) He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal." (13) They went off to the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there.*

Jesus told Peter and John to look for a man carrying water. Ordinarily women, not men, went to the well and brought home the water. This man carrying the pitcher of water would have stood out in the crowd. So, it was easy for Peter and John to find the man who would lead them to the house. The owner of the house took the disciples to an upstairs room where they prepared for the Passover feast.

Luke 22:14

When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table.

In Bible times, people did not sit at the table in chairs, like we do. They laid down on their left side and fed themselves with their right hand.

It was during this last supper Jesus had with His disciples that he established what we call the "Lord's Supper" or communion. We do it as a way to remember His death.

Luke 22:15-16

*Jesus said, "I have been very **eager** to eat this Passover meal with you **before my suffering begins**. (16) For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God."*

Jesus was anxious to eat this Passover meal with His disciples because He had an important lesson He wanted to teach them. In fact, He planned to demonstrate this lesson as they ate their meal. He said He wanted to teach them this lesson before His suffering began and that the meaning of the lesson would not be clear to them until it was "fulfilled in the Kingdom of God" (After His death.)

At that, Jesus asked the disciples to eat broken bread and drink wine in remembrance of Him.

Luke 22:17-20

*Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. (18) For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come." (19) He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. **Do this in remembrance of me.**" (20) After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "**This cup is the new covenant** between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you.*

Jesus said, "**This cup is the new covenant**". A covenant is an agreement or a deal.

Before Jesus came to earth as a man, God agreed to forgive people's sins if they brought animals for the priests to sacrifice. God wanted the people to know that without the shedding of blood there was no forgiveness of sins (Heb 9:22). But animal blood did not remove sins permanently. That's why Jesus came.

Jesus came to establish the New Covenant, the new deal. Only God can truly forgive sin. After He came and died on the cross, it was no longer necessary for the people to sacrifice animals. His death was the final, perfect sacrifice.

God said all sin must be punished (Eze 18:20). Jesus took the punishment that we deserve. He died in our place. Because He is God, His blood fully removes the sins of all who put their faith in Him. That's why when John the Baptist saw Jesus coming to be baptized, he said, "*Behold! The lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.*" (John 1:29).

Jesus shed His blood for us on the cross and now we may live in heaven with Him. By having the Lord's Supper together, we remember Jesus' death on the cross. As we eat the bread and drink the wine, we should quietly recall Jesus' death and express our thanks to God for His wonderful plan of salvation. This strengthens our faith.

While they were eating their last supper together, Jesus tells the disciples a shocking thing.

Mark 14:17-21

In the evening Jesus arrived with the Twelve. (18) As they were at the table eating, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, one of you eating with me here will betray me." (19) Greatly distressed, each one asked in turn, "Am I the one?" (20) He replied, "It is one of you twelve who is eating from this bowl with me. (21) For the Son of Man must die, as the Scriptures declared long ago. But how terrible it will be for the one who betrays him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been born!"

Judas, the very man who would betray Jesus, was at the table with the others. Judas had already determined to betray Jesus, but in cold-blooded hypocrisy he shared the fellowship of this meal.

This is shocking! Yet we can be guilty of this same sort of sin. You and I can say we are Christians and that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. We can go to church and look good among the other Christians. But,

if we live a two-faced life, acting as a true Christian at church, but acting like a non-Christian when we're not at church, we are dishonoring Jesus.

So, I ask you, do your thoughts, or words, or actions ever dishonor the Lord? Have you ever cheated in a game or said a bad word? Or, have you ever talked rudely to your mother, or been disobedient to your dad? Have you ever kept your faith in Jesus a secret when you're with your worldly friends?

You know that people will know by the way you live your life if you are truly a follower of Jesus.

Closing Prayer

Father, make our witness to our friends a bold one. Help us to walk our talk. Change our minds and hearts so that we are true followers in You. We never want to dishonor You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Learning Activities

Activity

Have communion together with your class. Read the passage from 1 Corinthians 11:23b – 26 as you take the elements.

Game Center

Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. What dirty trick did Judas play on Jesus the night before His death? (He made a deal with the chief priests to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.)
2. When Jesus sent Peter and John off to find a place for them to have the Passover meal, what was the unusual way they found

the upper room? (They followed a man carrying a pitcher of water to a guest room.)

3. What did Jesus do during the Last Supper that we repeat. (Jesus instituted the “Lord’s Supper.” We do it in remembrance of what He did for us on the cross.)
4. How many disciples were at the Last Supper? (12)
5. What did Jesus do before they ate? (Gave thanks.)
6. What did Jesus call the bread that He served? (His body broken for us.)
7. What did Jesus call the wine that He served? (His blood, shed for us.)
8. In our memory verse, why did John say that Jesus was the “*lamb of God*”? (Because He took our place on the cross. We deserve to die, but His blood was shed for us so we don’t have to die an eternal death. We can now live forever in the presence of God.)
9. What shocking thing did Jesus tell His disciples while they were eating dinner? (That one of the 12 disciples was going to betray Him.)
10. Can you think of any way that you might betray the Lord Jesus? (By keeping our faith in Him a secret when we’re with our worldly friends.)

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