

PASSION WEEK: THURSDAY

Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-31; Luke 22:7-38; John 13:1 - 17:26

STRUCTURE

Key-person: Jesus

concern of Jesus for his disciples is contrasted with their self-confidence and greedy ambitions.

Key-location: Jerusalem

Key-repetitions:

- Judas: criticized Mary for pouring perfume on Jesus (Jn 12:4-5); was a thief (Jn 12:6); betrayed Jesus (Mt 26:14-16; Mk 14:10-11; Lk 22:3-6); inspired by the devil to betray Jesus (Jn 13:2); his being a traitor, predicted by Jesus (Mt 26:20-25; Mk 14:18-21; Lk 22:21-23; Jn 13:18-26); Satan entered him (Jn 13:27); Judas left Jesus and the disciples (Jn 13:30); he went to the garden with a group of soldiers to arrest Jesus (Jn 18:2-3).

- Jesus' predictions about his disciples: Judas would betray him (Mt 26:20-25; Mk 14:18-21; Lk 22:21-23; Jn 13:18-30); Peter would disown him (Mt 26:31-35; Mk 14:27-31; Lk 22:31-34; Jn 13:36-38); all would abandon him (Mt 26:31; Jn 16:32).

- Jesus said, "I tell you the truth" (Jn 13:16, 20, 21, 38).

Key-attitudes:

- During the Passover Dinner and the Lord's Supper, the

Initial-situation:

Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. On Sunday he experienced his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. On Monday, he cursed the barren fig tree and then cleansed the Temple by expelling those who were buying and selling. On Tuesday, Jesus and the religious leaders argued. On Tuesday evening, Jesus was honored at a banquet at Lazarus' home where Mary anointed him with perfume. After the banquet, Judas bargained with the chief priests to betray Jesus. On Wednesday, Jesus rested in Bethany.

Initial-problem:

Jesus' disciples asked him where he wanted them to make preparations to eat the Passover meal.

Final-situation:

Jesus left Jerusalem and entered an olive grove with his disciples.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Celebrated the Passover Meal Mt 26:17-20; Mk 14:12-17; Lk 22:7-16

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb. Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to prepare the Passover meal?"

Jesus sent two of his disciples, Peter and John, telling them, "Go into the city. You will meet a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him to the house he enters and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' The owner will show you a large upstairs room furnished and ready. Prepare the meal there for us."

The two disciples left, went into the city and found everything just as Jesus had promised. So they prepared the Passover meal (Mk 14:12-16; Lk 22:7-13).

Evening came and Jesus arrived with the Twelve (Mk 14:17). Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. Jesus told them, "I have a deep desire to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. But I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds its full meaning in the kingdom of God" (Lk 22:14-16).

Jesus Washed His Disciples' Feet Jn 13:1-20

Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and return to the Father and he showed his disciples the full extent of his love.

The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus.

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God. Jesus got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet. He dried their feet with the towel that was wrapped around his waist.

Jesus came to Simon Peter, who asked, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Peter persisted, "No, you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "If I don't wash your feet, you don't belong to me."

Peter replied, "Then, Lord, not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "A person who has taken a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. All of you disciples are clean, except for one of you." Jesus knew who was going to betray him. That was why he said all except one of you are clean (Jn 13:1-11).

Jesus finished washing their feet, put back on his clothes, and returned to his place. He asked them, "Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so. That is what I am. If I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash each others' feet. I have set an example for you; what I have done, you should do. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. You know this truth, and you will be blessed if you practice it (Jn 13:12-17).

Jesus Predicted His Betrayal Mt 26:21-25; Mk 14:18-21; Lk 22:21-23; Jn 13:21-30

While they were reclining at the table eating, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, one of you who is eating with me will betray me."

They were stunned; one by one they asked him, "Surely you don't mean me, do you?"

Jesus replied, "It is one of you Twelve who dips his bread into the dish with me. The Son of Man will die just as the Scripture promises he will. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born" (Mk 14:18-21).

The disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to that disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."

That disciple leaned closer to Jesus and asked him, "Lord, who is it?"

Jesus answered, "I will dip some bread in the sauce dish and give it to him." Then, Jesus dipped the piece of bread and gave it to Judas Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered him and took control of him.

Jesus told Judas, "Go quickly and do what you are about to do." None of the others at the table understood what Jesus meant. Some thought that since Judas had charge of the money, Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give money to the poor. As soon as Judas took the bread, he went out. And it was night (Jn 13:23-30).

The Lord's Supper Mt 26:26-29; Mk 14:22-25; Lk 22:14-22; Jn 13:18; 1 Cor 11:23-26

While they were eating, Jesus took bread in his hands, gave thanks, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take this and eat it. This is my body which is for you; Every time you eat it, do it to remember me."

In the same manner, Jesus picked a cup of wine, gave thanks to God and offered it to his disciples. He said, "Take this and drink it. This is my blood and with it God makes a new covenant.

My blood is poured out in order for many people to have their sins forgiven. Every time you drink it, do it to remember me.

"I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine again until that new day when I drink it with you in my Father's Kingdom. For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (Mt 26:26-29; 1 Cor 11:23-26).

Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn and left the house and started walking the streets of Jerusalem toward the Mount of Olives (Mt 26:30).

The Twelve Argued About Greatness Lk 22:24-30

Within minutes, the disciples were arguing about which of them was the greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them. But you are not to be like that. Rather, let the greatest among you become like the youngest; let the leader act like a servant. I am among you as a servant (Lk 22:24-30).

Jesus Predicted Peter's Denial Mt 26:26-29; Mk 14:26-31; Lk 22:31-39; Jn 13:36-38

Then Jesus told the disciples, "This very night all of you will run away from me. The Scripture says, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the flock of sheep will be scattered.' But after I have risen to life, I will go ahead of you into Galilee" (Mt 26:31-32).

"Simon Peter, Satan has asked to sift you as a farmer sifts wheat. He wants to separate you from me as a farmer separates wheat from husks. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you recover, strengthen your brothers."

Peter replied, "Lord, I'm ready to go to prison with you and to die with you" (Lk 22:31-33).

Peter continued, "Even if everyone runs away from you, I never will."

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows tonight, you will say three times that you don't know me."

Peter protested, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never say I don't know you." All the other disciples said the same thing (Mt 26:33-35; Lk 22:33-34).

Jesus' Farewell Discourse Jn 14 - 17

Jesus gave a farewell discourse as he walked with his disciples through the streets of Jerusalem (Jn 14 - 16). As Jesus and his disciples walked through the streets of Jerusalem, Jesus looked toward heaven and prayed for his disciples and for those who would become his disciples (Jn 17).

When Jesus finished praying, he and his disciples crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was an olive grove, and he and his disciples went into it (Jn 18:1).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

SPECIFIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was Jesus trying to teach his disciples when he washed their feet?
2. When Jesus predicted his betrayal, what was the disciples' reaction?
3. What do the elements used during the Lord's Supper represent?
 - The bread.
 - The wine.
4. When Jesus predicted Peter's denial, what was Peter's reaction?
5. What can help us avoid betraying or disowning Jesus?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. Jesus knows his followers' wrongdoings, yet loves them. Jesus knew Judas would betray him, Peter would disown him, and all would desert him; still he showed them the full extent of his love (Jn 13:1).
 - Fearful disciples. They were afraid of being in Jerusalem and of dying with Jesus (Jn 11:16);
 - Self-confident disciples. Peter was self-confident that he would never become a stumbling rock and that he would die before disowning Jesus. All the others had the same confidence (Mt 26:31-35);
 - Treacherous disciple: Judas (Mt 26:23). Judas was a thief (Jn 12:4-6), Satan put in his heart to betray Jesus (Jn 13:2), then Satan entered him and led him to betray the Lord (Jn 13:27). In the church, the true believer and the imposter, the weed and the wheat, exist side by side (Mt 13:24-30);
 - Self-promoting disciples (Mt 20:20-23). James and John wanted positions of power;
 - Jealous disciples (Mt 20:24). The ten other disciples were angry with James and John who had asked for special privileges.
2. Jesus, the Master, is a servant, and he wants disciples who are servants. He served the Father (Jn 5:36; 6:38; 9:4; 10:32, 37; 14:10) and he was a servant to people (Mt 20:28; Lk 22:27; Phil 2:2-7). Jesus proved he was a servant by washing his disciples' feet. Washing guests' feet was a job for the lowest household servant (Jn 13:4-5). Jesus demanded that his disciples be servants of others (Jn 13:15-16).
3. In the Lord's Supper, the bread and the wine symbolize Christ's sacrifice in the following ways:
 - The use of food in the Lord's Supper symbolizes that Christ is our spiritual food;
 - The bread symbolizes Christ's body. To break the bread symbolizes that Jesus' body was broken, when he died (Mt 26:26). His body was given for us (1 Cor 11:24);
 - The wine symbolizes the blood that was shed so people could have their sins forgiven (Mt 26:28);
 - When the believer receives the bread and the wine, he symbolizes that he has received the crucified Jesus as his spiritual food.
 - Partaking together of the Lord's Supper expresses friendship and Christian companionship among those who are present, and that all believers in Jesus belong to the same family.
4. The participants of the first Lord's Supper with Jesus were people who were committed to him; yet, they had carnal and cultural baggage, and didn't understand his purposes. Among the participants of the first Lord's Supper with Jesus, were:
 - Confused disciples. The disciples were confused about Jesus' purposes. They expected Jesus to become a warrior who would free Israel from the Romans; then he would become a king who would make the country of Israel as strong as it was during King David's time;
5. Diabolical power acts to enslave people in order to combat Jesus. The action of Satan is seen in the drama of the Passion:
 - The Jewish leaders who wanted to kill Jesus were children of the Devil (Jn 8:40-44);
 - During the crucifixion, the prince of this world was expelled (Jn 12:31);
 - The Devil put in Judas' heart the idea of betraying Jesus (Jn 13:2);
 - Satan put the disciples through a test. He sifted them, like a farmer who separates the wheat from the straw (Lk 22:31);
 - The Holy Spirit acts, because the prince of this world is already judged and condemned (Jn 16:11);
 - Satan fights against those who are faithful to the truth revealed by Jesus (Rev 12:17).
6. Jesus' follower can suffer the "sifting" (hard testing) of the Devil. The devil received from Jesus permission to sift Peter as a farmer sifts wheat when he is separating wheat from straw (Lk 22:31-34):

- The Devil's "sifting" was foreseen and allowed by Jesus (Lk 22:31);
- The purpose of the Devil's "sifting" is to destroy the faith of Jesus' followers;
- Jesus' purpose in allowing the Devil's "sifting" is to strengthen the faith of his followers (Ja 1:3) and to restore the "sifted" one so that he may

strengthen weaker brothers in Christ (Lk 22:32; Gal 6:1);

- The believer's safety when he is being "sifted" is that it is done with Jesus' knowledge, within the limitations established by him (Lk 22:31; 1 Cor 10:13) and Jesus is interceding in prayer while he is being "sifted" (Lk 22:32; Heb 4:14; 1 Jn 2:1-2).