

Lesson 30: The Last Supper

Objective: To learn that we should dream not to be "Number One" for ourselves; but to be "Number One" in doing good for others.

Background: The Passover celebrates the deliverance (setting free) of the Israelites (Jews) from slavery in Egypt. The night before they came out of Egypt, God ordered the Israelites to kill lambs and put their blood on the doorposts of their homes. As a result of the blood of the lambs, they were saved from death when God punished the Egyptians around them. Since then thousands of lambs were sacrificed (killed) each year at Passover in Jerusalem. As the lambs died in the place of the Israelites at the first Passover, so at this Passover Jesus, the Lamb of God, chose to die in our place and to set you and me free from sin that controls us.

Instructions: Read carefully John 13:1-30; Matthew 25:26-29 as if you were at the scene and saw with your own eyes.

Let's Think: Be sure to read the passage over again at the end of the questions.

Thursday evening in an upper room in Jerusalem, Jesus and the disciples have just arrived for the Passover meal, for which Peter and John were sent to prepare earlier in the day. None of the disciples seem to know that this is their last supper with their teacher, for before dawn their teacher would be arrested, suffer and then die on the Cross. Let's find out what is in the minds of the disciples and Jesus as they sit around the table for the last time.

1. a) What's going on in the mind of Judas Iscariot (his secret)? Read Matthew 26:1-5; 14-16
Do the other disciples know his secret? How about Jesus? Explain

b) By the way, can we hide our thoughts and plans from Jesus? Think about it!

2. a) Jesus loved Judas and tried to change his mind. But who does Judas choose to follow?
(John 12:2,27) Do you know how it ended? (Matthew 27:1-5)

b) By the way, does the devil love those who follow him? Think about it!

3. a) What's occupying the minds of the disciples (their dream) which made them argue? (Luke 22:24; Luke 9:46) Did they "hear" Jesus when he told them again and again that He would suffer and die in Jerusalem? (Matthew 16:21; Matthew 17:22; Matthew 26:2)

b) By the way, are you "listening" to Jesus as you study His words? Are you? Be honest!

4. a) Tell in your own words what Jesus taught the disciples about being "Number One", (Matthew 22:24-26; Mark 10:42-45) What example did Jesus set for them (John 13:3-5; 12-17)

b) By the way, which person would you like for a true friend – the one who wants to be "Number One" for himself or the one who wants to be "Number One" in doing good for others? Why?

5. a) What's in the mind of Jesus when He gives the bread and the cup to the disciples? Read carefully what He said in Matthew 26:26-28. Are Jesus and the disciples thinking the same thing as they sit around the table for the last time? Explain.

b) By the way, is Jesus' attitude one of "getting" or "giving"? Give evidence

6. a) Do you have a "dream" (you should dream!) If so, is it all for yourself? Is there a good example that you should follow and a bad example to avoid?

Let's Remember: "It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave."
(Matthew 20:26,27)

