

Lesson 30: The Last Supper

Objective: To know that true greatness is measured not by *the position* one holds but by *the service* one gives.

Background: The Passover celebrates the deliverance of the Israelites from the slavery in Egypt. The night before they came out of Egypt, God ordered the Israelites to kill lambs and put their blood on the doorpost. Because of the blood they were saved from death when God punished the Egyptians around them. Since then thousands of lambs have been sacrificed each year at Passover in Jerusalem. Just as the lambs died in the place of the Israelites at the first Passover; so, at this Passover, Jesus, the Lamb of God, *choose to die in our place and to set us free from the slavery of sin once for all.* (See also "The Cross").

Instruction: Read carefully Luke 22:7-27; John 13:1-30; Matthew 26:26-29 as if you were at the scene and saw the events with your own eyes.

Let's Think: 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 realize that this is their LAST supper with their teacher, for before dawn their teacher will be arrested, suffered, and then die on the cross. Let's us find out what's in the mind of the disciples and Jesus as they gather around the table for the last time.

1. What is going on in the mind of Judas Iscariot? (read Mt. 26: 1-5, 14-16) Did the rest of the disciples know what Judas was up to? How about Jesus? Give evidence.
2. Trace the downfall of Judas in Jn. 12:4-6; 13:2, 26-30; Mt. 26:14-16; Jn.18:2-3; Mt.26:47-50; 27:3-5. What seems to be the root cause? Draw some lessons. Do you agree that "a small surrender to the enemy has far-reaching effects?" Comment.
3. What is it that occupied the minds of the disciples, which ended in a dispute? (Lk.2 2:24; cf. Mt.20:20-24). Why did they fail to "hear" Jesus' words in Mt. 16:21; 17:22; 26:2? Draw some lessons for Bible study?
4. In what way does Jesus' teaching of "true greatness" differ from that of the world? (Lk. 22:24-26, Mt.20:25-28) How did His life exemplify the teaching? (Jn. 13:3-5; 12-17). Do you think Church history or the history of some churches would have different stories if the word of Jesus in John 13:15 has been heard and practiced? Explain.
5. What is on the mind of Jesus when He gave the bread and the cup to the disciples? What do the bread and the cup signify? Explain. (Mt.26:26-28). (The Last Supper became the First Lord's Supper).
6. Is Jesus' attitude in life one of "getting" or "giving"? What difference does it make? Explain. Are the disciples and Jesus thinking the same thing as they gather around the table for the last time? Is there a lesson to be learned?
7. What does Judas, the disciples, and Jesus, each speak to you personally as you watch them sitting around the table? Is it wrong for Christian to have personal "ambitions" or to aspire after high positions? Discuss.

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).