

## Lesson 21 – The Lord’s Supper

Text: Matthew 26:1-5, 14-35; Mark 14:1-2, 10-31; Luke 22:1-23, 31-38; John 13-14

Main Characters: God, Jesus, ruling Jews, Judas Iscariot, the apostles

### Key Passages:

- Luke 22:1-6 – Judas Iscariot committed to the chief priests that he would betray Jesus.
- Matthew 26:26-29 – Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper as a memorial of himself.

### Main Storyline:

After Jesus had finished rebuking the Pharisees and various teachings (Matthew 23-25), he turned to the disciples and warned them that the Passover was only two days away (it was Tuesday at the time). At that point, the Son of Man (Jesus) would be delivered up to be crucified. Meanwhile, the chief priests and elders (the Sanhedrin) had met to discuss how they could arrest Jesus and kill him somehow. They decided, at least at that point, that they could not kill Jesus during the feast because they worried about a riot breaking out.

At some point, Judas Iscariot left the other apostles and Jesus and went to the chief priests. He asked them how much they would pay him if he could deliver Jesus to them in the absence of the multitudes. The ruling Jews were glad to hear about this opportunity, and they offered Judas money to betray Jesus to them. Judas agreed to the arrangement, and from that time, he looked for an opportunity to deliver Jesus to them. (Note: while it is not specifically mentioned when this happened, it appears most likely that it happened on Tuesday. No events seem to have been recorded as happening on Wednesday of Jesus “last week.”)

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (which was the same day as the Passover), Jesus gave instructions to the disciples regarding the preparations that needed to be made for the Passover. They were to meet together at a certain house in a large upper room. The disciples did as Jesus asked, and, that evening, Jesus went there with the apostles.

At some point, there again seems to have been some quarreling amongst the apostles regarding who would be the greatest. Consider the irony when Jesus, at another point, rose up from the table, took a towel and water, and began to wash the disciples’ feet. Jesus taught them that they would need to do the same for one another and follow his example in humility and servitude.

As they were eating, Jesus told them that one of the apostles would betray him. They were upset and started asking, one by one, “Is it I?” Peter motioned for John, who was leaning on Jesus, to ask Jesus who would betray him. Jesus told him that it would be the one to whom he would give a piece of bread. Having taken the bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, saying, “What you do, do quickly.” Judas then immediately left, though no one but Jesus truly understood what was going on or why he had gone.

After Judas had gone, Jesus warned the disciples that he was going somewhere that they could not follow. Jesus told them that they would all stumble that night because of him, referencing Zechariah 13:7. Peter reassured him that, even if everyone else stumbled, he would not; in fact, Peter claimed that he would even go with Jesus to prison and to death. Jesus warned him that he would deny Jesus three times before the rooster crowed. Peter still claimed he would not deny Jesus, and all of the other disciples said the same thing.

Later in the evening, Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, to be taken in memorial of him. He took the bread, blessed it, and gave it to the disciples, instructing them, “Take, eat, this is my body.” Then he took the cup of the fruit of the vine (grape juice), gave thanks, and gave it to them, instructing them, “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

Following this, Jesus continued to teach the disciples various things, reassuring them that they should not be troubled. When he had finished speaking, they sang a hymn and went to the Mount of Olives.

### Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) We must look to Jesus as our example of humility and servitude, not being concerned with exaltation.
- 2.) We must be careful that we do not allow greed to cloud our judgment and cause us to sin.
- 3.) We must always remember Jesus; Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper as a memorial of himself.