

147. Jesus Eats the Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-35)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for giving us the Lord's Supper. Thank You for never leaving us alone, but always staying with us. Thank You for Your promise of forgiveness and stronger faith through the Lord's Supper. Make us strong so we can always continue faithful to You. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Matthew 26:17-19. On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened (flat) Bread, the disciples went to Jesus. They said, "We will prepare the Passover. Where do you want to eat it?" Jesus said, "Enter the city and go to one man. Tell him, 'The Teacher says His time is near. He will celebrate the Passover with His disciples at your house.'" The disciples did what Jesus said and they prepared the Passover.

- The disciples wanted to prepare the Passover meal for Jesus. Where did Jesus say they should prepare the meal?
- Jesus said His time was near. What does that mean?

Matthew 26:20-25. That evening, Jesus laid down with the twelve disciples to eat. (Jewish tables were low, you laid down to eat.) While they ate, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth. One of you will betray Me." The disciples were very sad. Each disciple said, "Lord, not me!" Jesus answered, "The disciple who used the same bowl with Me, that disciple will betray Me. The Son of Man will go, the same as the Bible says. But terrible trouble for the man who betrays Me! Better for him if he never was born." Judas is the disciple who betrayed Jesus. Judas said, "Teacher, You don't mean me?" Jesus said, "Yes, you."

- What did Jesus say one disciple will do? Did the disciples understand what Jesus was talking about? Did Judas understand?
- For the Jews, eating together meant you were close, you accepted each other. How did Jesus and Judas eat together? How close were they?
- Jesus said when He gets betrayed, He will go willingly, same as the Bible says. But what about Judas? What did Jesus say about him?

Matthew 26:26-30. While they ate, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke the bread. He gave the bread to the disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is My body." Then Jesus took the cup. He gave thanks and gave it to the disciples. Jesus said, "All of you drink from this. This is the blood of the promise, poured out for many people to forgive sins. I tell you the truth. I will not drink wine from now on, until I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." They sang a hymn, then they went out to the Mount of Olives.

- Jesus took bread and gave it to the disciples. What did He say? In the Lord's Supper, when we eat the bread, what are we receiving?
 1. This reminds you of My body.
 2. This is like My body.
 3. This is My body.
- Jesus took the cup, a cup of wine. Jesus said that is the blood of the promise. What promise? What is God's promise through Jesus and the Lord's Supper?
- When and where will Jesus drink wine again?

Matthew 26:31-32. Jesus told the disciples, "Tonight, your faith will fail, all of you, because of what will happen to Me. The Bible says, 'I will hurt the shepherd. The sheep will get scattered.' But after I rise alive, I will go ahead of you and meet you in Galilee."

- What will happen when Jesus gets arrested?
- Jesus is telling them lots of bad news now. But Jesus also gives the disciples a sign of hope. What?

Matthew 26:33-35. Peter said, "If everyone else's faith fails, I will never leave You." Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth. Tonight, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." Peter said, "Doesn't matter if I must die with You. I will never deny You." All the other disciples said the same thing.

- What did Jesus say Peter would do? Did Peter and the disciples think they could stand up for Jesus by themselves?
- Can we stand strong without Jesus? How/where is Jesus with us today?