

The Lord's Supper

Luke 22:1-23

Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Judas, Pharisee, Peter, John

Narrator: It was Thursday—earlier this week, Jesus had ridden into Jerusalem upon a donkey with thousands of people praising him and waving palm branches at him. The Pharisees were worried that the people would begin following Jesus, instead of them, and they would lose their power. On Thursday afternoon, Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, went to the chief priests to discuss how he would betray Jesus.

Judas: I am willing to betray Jesus if you give me enough money.

Pharisee: Very well—we will pay you from the Temple treasure if you give us Jesus when there is no crowd present. If there is a crowd around Jesus, a riot may start if we try arresting him. What is your price?

Judas: I ask for thirty pieces of silver. I know Jesus is planning on going to the Garden of Gethsemane tonight after the Passover dinner to pray. Only his disciples will be with him, which will be the perfect time for you to arrest him. I will greet him and kiss him—that is how you will know which person you should arrest. Hide your soldiers in the garden until then.

Narrator: The priests agreed with Judas' plan, and paid him his thirty pieces of silver. Judas left the priests, and returned to Jesus. While Judas was making his plans, Jesus and his disciples were walking about the town. Jesus stopped, and turned to Peter and John:

Jesus: Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.

John: Where do you want us to prepare for it?

Jesus: At the city gates, you will find a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you to a large upper room, which will be furnished. Make the preparations there.

Narrator: John and Peter left Jesus, and found the man carrying the jar of water, just as Jesus had said. They went to his house, and made preparations to use the guest room there. Soon, the hour of the Passover came, and all of the disciples gathered with Jesus in the upper room of the house. Jesus and his disciples reclined at the table.

Jesus: I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.

Narrator: Jesus took the cup of wine, and gave thanks, and told his disciples:

Jesus: Take this, and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.

Narrator: Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Jesus: This is my body, given for you, do this in remembrance of me.

Narrator: After the supper, he once again took the cup, and told his disciples:

Jesus: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. But the hand of him who is going to is with mine on the table. The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him.

Peter: Jesus, we all have been talking, and wonder which of us is considered to be the greatest disciple?

Jesus: The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. Who is greater—the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who sits at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Narrator: After Jesus had told his disciples this, he turned toward Simon Peter, and told him:

Jesus: Simon, Simon, Satan will sift you as wheat tonight. But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

Peter: Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death. I will never betray you.

Jesus: I tell you Peter, before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you know me.

Narrator: Jesus then turned to the rest of his disciples, and asked them:

Jesus: When I sent you out without purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?

John: Nothing, Rabbi. We have always had exactly what we have needed.

Jesus: But now, if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag. If you don't own a sword, sell your cloak and buy one. It is written: "And he was numbered with the transgressors," and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.

John: Lord, there are two swords here in this room. Can we use those?

Jesus: That is enough. Let us now go to the Garden of Gethsemane, so I can pray.

Narrator: Jesus and the disciples left the room, and went to the garden where he would be betrayed by Judas.