

Mark

Lesson 17

Chapter 14

Leader Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies

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The Upper Room

Lesson 17, Mark 14

Prayers

Introduction

Jesus made preparations to spend his last night on earth with his disciples sharing the Passover supper. He gave thanks and gave them bread and wine to eat and drink in remembrance of him. He showed them his love by taking the role of a servant to wash their feet, but they did not understand the lesson. He told them of his betrayal, but they did not understand. He told them they would all disown him, and they said they would never. They did not understand, but they followed, despite their fears and confusion.

Amazing, isn't it, a night ordained before creation was met with such misunderstanding and confusion? Many questions surround the sacrament of Lord's Supper. How does partaking of the bread and wine forgive my sins, giving me life and salvation? How is the body of Christ manifest in the bread and the wine? Was Jesus speaking figuratively or literally of his body and blood? Books and doctrinal discourses try to explain the mystery. The mystery of the presence of Christ's body and blood in the bread in wine is a miracle, empowered by the words of Christ, and received by faith in Christ.

Read Mark 14:12-26, Parallel verses in Mt 26:17-30; Lk 22:7-23, John 13:1-30, 1Co 11:23-25

[Jn 13:1 It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father.]

Mk 14:12 On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

Mk 14:13 So he sent two of his disciples [Peter and John], telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him [Mt 26:18 and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.' "

Mk 14:14 Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'

Mk 14:15 He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

Mk 14:16 The disciples left, went into the city, and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

Mk 14:17 When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve.

[Jn 13:1 Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

Jn 13:2 The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.

Jn 13:3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; Jn 13:4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. Jn 13:5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with a towel wrapped his waist.

Jn 13:6, He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jn 13:7, Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Jn 13:8, "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

Jn 13:9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jn 13:10 Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you."

Jn 13:11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

Jn 13:12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place.

"Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them.

Jn 13:13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am.

Jn 13:14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.

Jn 13:15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

Jn 13:16 I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

Jn 13:17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.]

1. After Jesus washed the disciple's feet, he asked them if they understood what he did for them. They did not answer. Refer to the following scriptures and answer what genuine love toward others looks like:

a. 1 John 3:16-18

John writes about taking care of others through action not words, even if it means laying down your own life.

b. Philippians 2:3-7

We are called to emulate Christ's humility, responsible in caring for our own needs and interests an also being mindful of others.

c. James 5:13-14

Caring for the physical and spiritual needs of the sick.

d. Hebrews 10:23-25

Spur each other onward to good deeds and continue to meet together. My church has been a real in blessing to me in responding to needs the needs of others, including disaster relief in Haiti, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Houston.

2. What actions do you do as a response to Jesus' question - "Do you understand what I have done for you?"?

Mk 14:18 While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, [Lk 22:15 "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. Lk 22:16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

Lk 22:17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you.

Lk 22:18 For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."]

"I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me [Lk 22:21 the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.

Lk 22:22 The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him."

[Jn 13:22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant.]

Mk 14:19 They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?"

Lk 22:23 They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

[Jn 13:23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him.

Jn 13:24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means."

Jn 13:25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?"]

Mk 14:20 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ^m

Mk 14:21 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

[Jn 13:26 Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon.

[Mt 26:25 Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "Yes, it is you."]

Jn 13:27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him, Jn 13:28 but no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him.

Jn 13:29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the Feast, or to give something to the poor.

Jn 13:30 As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

3. The disciples did not know who would betray Jesus. What does that tell you about the way Jesus treated Judas?

Even though Jesus knew Judas was the betrayer from the beginning, he did not treat him any differently from the other disciples.

4. Mark 14:19 says that the disciples were saddened by when Jesus told them one of them would betray him and each asked him, "Surely not I." Why do you think each asked Jesus if it was them?

The thought of betrayal seemed unthinkable to the disciples but not be beyond possibility. This possibility does not seem so remote with the threat of facing Roman soldiers or the Sanhedrin. We

face much lesser threats when the topic of Jesus presents itself in simple conversation – and we remain silent.

5. What prompted Judas to betray Jesus?
 - a. John 12:4-6
 - b. Luke 22:1-6

Judas was a thief who loved money. His heart was unchanged despite witnessing all of Jesus' power, miracles, and teaching.

Read

Mk 14:22 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, **“Take it; this is my body [1Co 11:24 which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”]**

[Lk 22:20 In the same way, after the supper he] Mk 14:23 he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.

Mk 14:24 **“This is my blood of the [new] covenant, which is poured out for many [Mt 26:28 for the forgiveness of sins] [1Co 11:25 do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”]** he said to them.

Mk 14:25 **“I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.”**

Mk 14:26 When they had sung a hymn, they went out [as usual] to the Mount of Olives. ⁵

Discuss

6. Jesus is the Lamb of God, the sacrificial Passover Lamb. What was the significance of Passover and the Passover Lamb? See Exodus 12:21-28.

Ex 12:21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Ex 12:22 Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. Ex 12:23 When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. Ex 12:24 “Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. Ex 12:25 When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. Ex 12:26 And when your children ask you, ‘What does this ceremony mean to you?’ Ex 12:27 then tell them, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.’ ” Then the people bowed down and worshiped. Ex 12:28 The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

The yearly Passover feast commemorated God's deliverance of his people from slavery in Egypt under the rule of Pharaoh. The LORD spared the Israelites from death when saw the blood of the Passover lamb on their doorpost, but the firstborn of all the Egyptians were killed. This was the last of the ten plagues God sent upon Egypt to free the Israelites. The Exodus was the great salvation story of the Jews.

7. In light of the Passover in Jerusalem and Jesus' ministry, why were the priests and teachers so determined to kill Jesus?

Luke 22:2 says that the chief priests and teachers were afraid the people would cause an uproar if Jesus was killed during the Passover. Many people had seen Jesus' miracles, heard his teaching, and were placing their faith in him. According to John 11:9-11, the news about the raising of Lazarus was bringing many people over to Jesus and Jerusalem was packed with pilgrims during Passover who might also turn to Jesus. Enter Judas. Judas offered to betray Jesus at an opportune moment when he was away from the crowd so the priests and teachers of the Law devised a plan to kill him (they had previously tried to kill him) with as little attention as possible. So, unfold the events of the arrest at night, trials in the night and morning, and a small crowd of hastily prepared false witnesses.

8. Jesus eagerly wanted to share the meal with his friends despite their unmindful blindness to the situation. What does this tell you about his relationship with them?

Jesus loved his disciples despite their many shortcomings. This would be his last Passover meal before his death so it was important to give his friends the institution of sharing the bread and wine in communion as a lasting remembrance of his presence with them.

9. How will the Passover be wholly fulfilled in the kingdom of God (v. 16)?

Jesus is the embodiment of the Passover Lamb for the salvation of the Jews and all mankind. As John the Baptist announced to the world after Jesus' baptism, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" The shedding of Jesus' blood on the cross is the perfect sacrifice for all sin, for all time, for all mankind. Jesus' presence with us in the Sacrament demonstrates his shedding of blood on the cross for the forgiveness of our sin. The ultimate fulfillment of the Eucharist celebration will come at the great wedding feast of the Lamb in heaven (Rev. 19:9).

10. How does Jesus' use of the bread and wine change the emphasis of Passover? What new meaning does he give to it?

Passover celebrated the past and ongoing deliverance of God's people. The unleavened bread and wine in the Passover meal were reminders of the haste of their exodus and their salvation from the blood on their doorposts. Jesus instituted a "new covenant" between God and mankind through faith in the sacrifice of his own body and blood. Jesus promises to be present in the bread and wine of the Communion meal for our salvation and for the forgiveness of our sins.

11. The New Covenant in Christ attaches new meaning to aspects of worship in the Old Covenant. These include blood, the act of remembrance, the role of priests, God's role in salvation, the worshiper's faith, and forgiveness. Refer to the verses below and discuss how worshipping Christ in the New Covenant has a different meaning from worship in the Old Covenant.

a. Blood, compare Exodus 12:21-28 to Romans 5:8-9

^{Ex 12:23} When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

In Exodus, the blood of the Passover lamb on their doorposts kept the firstborn Israelites from death by God's plague. In the New Testament, the blood of Christ justifies us (declares us to be innocent of our sin) before God, and saves us from God's wrath. We are saved from death and given eternal life through the blood of Christ.

b. Compare the act of remembrance in Passover from Exodus 12:21-28 to the practice of Communion in Corinthians 11:23-26.

^{Ex 12:25} When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. ^{Ex 12:26} And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' ^{Ex 12:27} then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.' " Then the people bowed down and worshiped. ^{Ex 12:28} The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

In the Old Covenant, the people remembered how God saved them from bondage in Egypt with mighty and miraculous works. Through God's Covenant and Law, they were to be a people set apart from other nations and worship him only. At each Passover celebration, the people remembered the past, considered the present, sought God's presence and favor, and expressed their hope in the Messiah for the future.

In the New Covenant Communion is for the remembrance of our sin and our need for our Savior, Jesus. In Communion, we receive his very body and blood of Jesus, remembering his death and resurrection for our salvation. This gives us hope and assurance of our future with him.

c. Compare the role of a Jewish priest to Christ in Hebrews 10:11-18

Hebrews 10:11 And every priest stands daily at his service, repeatedly offering the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Under the old covenant in the Old Testament, a priest had to continually sacrifice animals for the forgiveness of sins but it could never take away the sin. In the New Covenant, Christ was God's perfect sacrifice; he offered his life once for the forgiveness of all sins for all time.

- d. Compare God's role in the salvation of his people in the Old and New Covenants found in Exodus 12:21-28 and John 3:16.

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

God saved his people, the Hebrews, from slavery and from the plague of death by sending them Moses, a prophet from their own people. God worked miracles by his own hand and through Moses to deliver his people from bondage.

Likewise, God saved his people - the whole world, from their bondage to sin by sending them Jesus, his only Son, to be an atoning sacrifice for sin, once and for all. Jesus worked miracles to demonstrate he was God's Son and that whoever would believe in him would have eternal life.

- e. Compare the role of faith in the Passover celebration to communion. Also, compare Exodus 12:23-27 to John 3:16-17

The Hebrews needed to have faith that the blood of the lamb on their door posts would save them from the deadly plague. Likewise, people in the whole world need to have faith that the blood of Christ will save them from their sin.

We encounter the presence of Christ in the sacrament of Communion. Forgiveness of sin through communion occurs through faith in Christ as our Savior, not merely through the act of eating and drinking the bread and the wine. Luther points out that communion is of no value for forgiveness of sin to a non-believer because he lacks faith in Christ, even though he has received the true body and blood of Christ.

- f. Contrast forgiveness under the law to forgiveness under Christ; Leviticus 9:7 to Matthew 26:26-28

Leviticus 9:7 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Draw near to the altar and offer your sin offering and your burnt offering and make atonement for yourself and for the people, and bring the offering of the people and make atonement for them, as the LORD has commanded."

Mt 26:26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom."

Forgiveness under the law required daily sacrifices of animals as sin offerings. In Christ, we also need daily reminders that we are sinners in need of forgiveness. But the final sacrifice has been made! We can turn to Jesus and rest in the assurance that our sins are forgiven. The Lord's Supper is a beautiful

and tangible way that we receive this forgiveness and assurance. As one body together, we both receive that forgiveness from God and share it with one another.

Read Mark 14:27-31, Parallel verses in Mt 26:31-35, Luke 22:24-38, John 13:31-38

Lk 22:24 Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.

Lk 22:25 Jesus said to them, **“The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors.**

Lk 22:26 **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.**

Lk 22:27 **For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.**

Lk 22:28 **You are those who have stood by me in my trials.**

Lk 22:29 **And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me,**

Lk 22:30 **so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

Mk 14:27 **“You will all fall away,”** Jesus told them, **“for it is written: “ ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’**

Mk 14:28 **But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”**

Mk 14:29 Peter declared, **“Even if all fall away, I will not.”**

Lk 22:31 **“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.**

Lk 22:32 **But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”**

Lk 22:33 But he replied, **“Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”**

Mk 14:30 **“I tell you the truth, [Peter]”** Jesus answered, **“today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.”**

Mk 14:31 But Peter insisted emphatically, **“Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.”** And all the others said the same.

Lk 22:35 Then Jesus asked them, **“When I sent you without purse, bag or sandals, did you lack anything?”** **“Nothing,”** they answered.

Lk 22:36 He said to them, **“But now if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one.**

Lk 22:37 **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.”**

Lk 22:38 The disciples said, **“See, Lord, here are two swords.”** **“That is enough,”** he replied.

12. Luke 22:31-34 provides some additional insight into how Jesus dealt with Peter’s impending denial.

a. How did Satan "sift" Peter?

Satan attacked Peter’s pride and confidence in himself and in his love for Jesus. The attack left Peter devastated but was part of God’s plan in preparing Peter for leadership.

b. How did Jesus help prepare Peter for his trial?

Jesus prepared Peter by telling him what would happen, he would rise from the dead. He prayed for Peter and told him to pray that his faith would not fail so that he could strengthen his brothers.

13. After Jesus told Peter that Peter would disown him, he asked the disciples to remember his words when he first sent them out on their first evangelism journey with him. What was the main lesson he wanted them to remember?

Jesus wanted them to remember how they traveled in pairs and how God had met all their needs while they were without him.

14. What did the disciples likely think about Jesus' reference to the swords?

The disciples' thought the swords would be used to overthrow the Romans to establish an earthly kingdom for Jesus described in Isaiah 54. Two swords would have been enough to overthrow an entire empire!

15. How did Jesus address the argument about who was the greatest?

Jesus held up himself as an example of how to be greatest. The greatest would be the one who serves others. He taught them with words and showed them by washing their feet.

Jesus put their squabbling to rest and promised them they would all be seated on thrones with him in his kingdom.

Reflection questions:

16. What does sharing in the Lord's Supper mean to you? *The Lord's Supper is also called Holy Communion, the Eucharist, the Sacrament of the Altar, and the Lord's Table.*

17. What would it mean to apply Jesus' words about service (v. 27) in your family life? Work or neighborhood relationships? Use of money/resources/time?

- a. What makes it hard for you to apply this principle in those areas? What can help you do so?

Closing Prayer and Blessing