

Lenten Devotion Series - Monday, March 4th

Submitted by Mark Meadows

Mark 14: 12-26

12 On the first day of the Festival 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?"

13 So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. 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?' 15 He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

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

17 When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. 18 While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

19 They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?"

20 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. 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."

22 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

23 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

24 "This is my blood of the[a] covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. 25 "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

26 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

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I ponder the day-to-day activities of the disciples and those who walked daily with Jesus; those who witnessed His miracles and worked side-by-side with Jesus along His journeys from town-to-town. I think of how they learned to pray the way Jesus prayed, eat the way Jesus ate, show affection to those in need of care, rebuke those who were against God and his goodness. I imagine the fresh new sense of purpose they had and the excitement of what was next. I also imagine there was a lot of waiting around, a lot of patience to hone, and a lot of unknowns. I imagine there were a lot of mistakes that were made. Bad attitudes and bickering about this and that.

Jesus is sitting with them at Passover and tells them that

“... One of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.” Their response was an expected - “Surely, not I?”

I don't think I would be the one who betrayed Jesus that day. How could someone do that! Who would do such a thing? Who would put themselves over others? Who would choose short term thrills over lasting joy, who would choose apathy over prayer? Me, me and me. Too often I choose the world's riches— which quickly turn to dust —over his treasures that never decay. Have mercy on me Lord! Hear my cry! And He does, His mercy and love flows over and he does not hide His face from us. Let us come to Jesus in repentance of our betrayal for He offers forgiveness and promises a new life, a life of hope and healing for the sinner.

