

followers of Jesus and yet he sought out the chief priests to offer his betrayal. There are different theories as to why, but his was not the only failure amongst the disciples. Peter denied Him, Thomas doubted Him, and the rest abandoned Him. It is easy to believe we would never fail Jesus, but to some degree all 12 disciples did, yet each of them asked Jesus, "Surely you don't mean me?"

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." ... 20 "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. 21 ...But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." - Mark 14:18, 20-21b NIV

Every one of us has failed Jesus. It happens every time we choose disobedience and sin over obedience and faithfulness. When you read verse 21, what tone do you hear? Is He angry and condemning, disappointed and shaming or is He sad and regretful at what His friend was facing because of his actions?

In Mark 14:22-24 Jesus offers His body and blood to the very ones who would betray, deny and abandon Him. Because while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)

Pause as you reflect on this supreme act of love and sacrifice. Take some time to thank Jesus for the priceless gift He offers us through His death and resurrection.

WRAP-UP

None of us deserve the gift of eternal life Jesus offers. He didn't lay down his life for the worthy but the unworthy. His sacrifice wasn't for those who are following him to the cross but for those who would abandon him along the way. Jesus gives himself for sinners in an act of unconditional love. What He asks of us in return is everything; that you would lay down your life in exchange for His.

MEMORY VERSE

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." -Mark 14:18-26 NIV

Challenge –

Read Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12. Remember that Jesus knew that His journey back to the Father led through the cross. And although He prayed that it might pass, He was committed to following God's will, no matter the cost.

The Last Supper Gospel of Mark Ch. 14 - Week 2

INTRODUCTION

In this study we are continuing our journey with Jesus through the Passion Week events. Previously we read about a woman who prophetically anointed Jesus for burial in a lavish display of worship as she emptied expensive perfume over him at a dinner at Simon the Leper's home. This set in motion Judas' betrayal of Jesus as he objected to the waste of perfume in this way. After leaving the dinner, Judas went to the chief priest and offered what they had been looking for- an opportunity to arrest Jesus and kill him. How could someone who had been close to Jesus and followed Him in His ministry do such a thing? And how could Jesus continue to love him as a friend despite what He knew would happen? The incomparable grace and sacrificial love of Christ is displayed in the final meal Jesus shared with His friends, the Passover meal we call the Last Supper.

Ice Breaker

What is your favorite meal to share with friends- BBQ, potluck, fancy restaurant, pizza???

Key Passages

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 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. - Mark 14:18-26 NIV

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Passover

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?" - Mark 14:12 NIV

The observance of Passover initiated the week-long Festival of Unleavened Bread. Because Passover must be observed in Jerusalem there was a pilgrimage of millions of Jews to the city at that time. And that meant there were hundreds of thousands of Passover lambs being sacrificed in and around Jerusalem that day.

Describe what you envision Jerusalem would be like on that Passover. What event was the Passover Feast commemorating? Why do you think God required an annual reminder of this event? In what way was its fulfillment unfolding before their eyes?

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." - Mark 14:25 NIV

Jesus was acutely aware that the true meaning of the Passover was coming to pass. As He conducted the customary practices sharing the bitter herbs, the roasted lamb, the unleavened bread and the wine He already knew it would be His last supper on earth.

2. The Gospel in a Meal

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 covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. - Mark 14:22-24 NIV

51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." - John 6:51 NIV

53 Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. **54** Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. **55** For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. **56** Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them." - John 6:53-56 NIV

The first Passover had taken place around 1400 years before Jesus was born. The Jews were very familiar with the symbol of unleavened bread as the bread eaten as they fled Egypt and the manna God provided in the wilderness. But Jesus was revealing a new meaning during this Passover.

Jesus had begun to reveal the truth hidden within the Passover long before He sat at the table in Jerusalem. In John 6:51-56 the meaning was still veiled in mystery. Why do you think Jesus didn't clarify what He meant then? Hearing that they had to eat His body and drink His blood caused

many to turn away. Are there passages in the Bible that you find confusing or even offensive? What helps you to remain faithful when circumstances are confusing or difficult to accept?

We will all face difficult, challenging and confusing times in our lives. But we can prepare ourselves for that time in advance. The passages below give us a foundation for our trust in God because He knows what He is doing even when we don't.

Think of a situation you may be facing that has caused you concern or anxiety because the outcome is so uncertain. As you read each passage aloud, reflect on how this truth might apply to your situation.

• God Gives Direction

16 I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. - Isaiah 42:16 NIV

• God Works for the Good

28 We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose. - Romans 8:28 RSV

• God Gives Hope

11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. - Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

Jesus knew the scriptures prophesied about the Messiah's anguish, pain and affliction. It foretold that He would bear the iniquity of all and His life would be poured out for many. But He also trusted God's good purpose was to rescue all of creation from the corruption of sin and death.

The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him...

- Mark 14:21a NIV

How would you describe Jesus' attitude as He neared the cross?

The disciples were about to experience events that would shake them to the foundations of their faith. They would witness Jesus' crucifixion. But Jesus was teaching them how to trust. If they could walk obediently in the calm as He did, they would be better equipped to walk in obedience in the chaos that would follow.

3. How Could He?

Proximity doesn't guarantee faithfulness. Judas was one of the twelve closest