

Bible Study Class
Clayton Presbyterian Church
Lesson 22 Jesus
The Last Week of the Life of Jesus IV

Ask if anyone has a particular book or subject they would like to study for July & August. In September we may start using lessons from one of the publishers on the Universal Sunday School lesson.

Opening: A PRAYER FOR WHEN YOU WANT TO GIVE UP

Father, we confess our fears to you. Help us overcome them by trusting in your presence and power that you make available. Help us worry less about committing on our end, and focus more on admitting our weaknesses and submitting to your plans. In Jesus' Name, Amen. My source is Micca Campbell @ iBelieve.com

Today we will use Luke chapter 22 and John chapter 13. Luke 22 has three themes (1) Despite appearances to the contrary, Jesus is the Lord of history and the one in control. (2) Jesus' death establishes the new covenant between God and his people. (3) God's people must properly respond to the establishment of this new covenant. John 13 has the following points: Jesus washes his disciples' feet. He tells who would betray him. He instructs them in the great doctrine of his own death, and the great duty of brotherly love. He tells Peter that he will deny Him.

Jesus predicts, the Rulers' Plot for and Judas Bargains for Jesus' Death.

Read Luke 22:1-6

1. What was another name for the Passover? Another name was the feast of unleavened bread. How many days were there until it occurred? There were two more days until it began. David Guzik reminds us that Jerusalem would be crowded with people. Many of the crowd had heard about Jesus and were there to see Him as well as observe the Passover. I have enjoyed pictures on Facebook by a friend who was in England for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee but London was crowded.
2. What prediction did Jesus make concerning the Passover? He said that He would be crucified.
3. Where had the chief priests and elders of the Jews assembled? They were in the court of the high priest. The court where they met was the open space enclosed by the palace of the high priest. Caiaphas had been appointed high priest about 3 years before. Fourfold says that this meeting may have begun on

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Tuesday but as twilight came and passed according to Jewish days, it was Wednesday. Why had they assembled there? They were plotting how to capture and kill Jesus without causing the people to riot. They didn't fear God. They were afraid of the people. Their fear was based on the reaction of the people to Jesus on Palm Sunday as He entered Jerusalem.

4. What offer did Judas make to the chief priests and elders of the Jews? He offers to tell them where Jesus was and help them seize Jesus. He probably approached one or more of the Sanhedrin. What was their reaction? The meeting just described is probably a result of Judas' offer. Why did Judas do such a thing? Fourfold says that Judas probably did this as a result of the "put down" by Jesus when the woman was anointing Him with the expensive nard. Fourfold also thinks that Judas may have appeared before the Sanhedrin during this meeting. Guzik thinks that Judas was expecting more of the earthly kingdom and when he sees that Jesus isn't that type of Messiah, he decides to betray Him. These of course are educated guesses. Since Judas asks for money, one motivation is greed. They offered Judas thirty pieces of silver. The sum in 2021, according to Wikipedia was from \$91 to \$441 based on which type of coin was used. We don't know for sure which type of coin was used. In Exodus the value of a slave was thirty pieces of silver. Blomberg also suggests that Matthew may also be saying that "Jesus' death is a ransom, the price paid to secure a slave's freedom," The phrase "thirty pieces of silver" have been used numerous times in art, drama, literature and certainly politics. In 2022, a video surfaced online of a Ukrainian Border Guard reportedly paying 30 pieces of silver to the departing Belarusian ambassador, due to the complicit behavior of Belarus in allowing Russia to stage assaults into Ukraine via the Ukraine-Belarus Border.

Preparation for the Passover. Disciples Contend for Precedence.

Read Luke 22:7-18

5. Whom did Jesus send to prepare for the Passover? Peter and John. What were their instructions, i.e., how were they to know where to go, etc.? They were to follow a man carrying a jar of water and say to the owner of the house "The Teacher says to you where is the room where my disciples and I will eat the Passover meal? It would be unusual to see a man carrying a jar of water since this was usually a woman's work. Since leaven was seen by the Jews as a symbol of corruption,

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all leaven was and still is removed from Jewish houses before Passover begins. The feast lasts for either seven or eight days. The lamb must be slain in the temple, roasted, and unleavened loaves, wine, and bitter herbs, etc., must be provided, and a room for the feast must be secured. There is a lot of preparation that must be done. Residents of Jerusalem opened their homes for visitors to celebrate the feast in their homes. Jesus probably is trying get a location that will not attract the attention of the Sanhedrin. Since Jesus did not identify ahead of time just where he would observe Passover, Judas was unable to inform the enemy, who might have interrupted this important occasion. Josephus tells us that the lambs were killed from three and five. This would allow time for the dressing and roasting of the lamb.

6. Who observed Passover with Jesus? His disciples. He wanted to have this last celebratory meal with them. What did He tell them as to when He would: a. Eat of it again? I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." B. Drink the fruit of the vine again? I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. Luke brings out the parallelism between the Passover and the Lord's supper. Each consisted in eating followed by drinking, and the closeness of the parallel is emphasized by the use of almost the same words with regard to the cup. The Passover was typical of the Lord's suffering before the event, and the Lord's supper is typical of the same thing after the event.

Read Luke 22:24-30

7. While in the upper room, what dispute arose among the disciples? They were arguing about who would be the greatest. How did Jesus answer this dispute? He said that the greatest among them was the one who served. Fourfold thinks that the disciples may have interpreted Jesus' words "my time is at hand" to mean that he was about to set up His kingdom. They would then argue about who was going to have the choice appointments. In verses 28-30, He is telling them that they will go through trials just as He will but their ultimate reward is eating and drinking at the table of the Lord, which was the ancient custom of bestowing honor and distinction.

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The Passover Meal. Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet.

Read John 13:1-20

8. What did Jesus do immediately after supper? Jesus did something that must have almost seemed crazy. He began to do the job of the lowest servant in the household. He began to wash the disciples' feet. According to the Jewish laws and traditions regarding the relationship between a teacher and his disciples, a teacher had no right to demand or expect that his disciples would wash his feet. John shows that Jesus divine nature knew of the suffering to follow but here shows His great love for His disciples by observing the festival as a usual observance but adding His message to them. The detail that John adds to this act contrasts sharply with the disciples' argument above.

9. Which apostle, at first, refused to allow Jesus to wash His feet? Peter. Fourfold thinks that the others were watching in silence. Guzik says that Peter still wanted to tell Jesus what to do. Why did he change his mind? Jesus told him that he couldn't be a part of Jesus' kingdom unless He allowed Him to wash his feet. Then what did he want Jesus to do? He wanted Him to wash his hands and head as well. What response did Jesus give him? Jesus answered that he didn't fully understand now what was going on but he would later.

1 Peter 5:5 Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility.

More literally, Peter wrote: "wrap the apron of humility around yourself." What Jesus did here remained in his mind and heart. We know that when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, they understood what Jesus was trying to teach them. Symbolically just as the disciples' feet would have been dirty from the trip from Bethany, they had bathed and the body was clean, baptism cleanses the soul for admittance into the family of God. What did Jesus say was His purpose in washing the disciples' feet? It was a familiar custom of the time for a lowly servant to wash the feet. Jesus is using this as an example of humble service to others. Temple makes an observation: "Sometimes we show a servant's heart by accepting the service of others for us. If we only serve, and refuse to be served, it can be a sign of deeply rooted and well-hidden pride. "Man's humility does not begin with the giving of service; it begins with the readiness to receive it. For there can be much pride and condescension in our giving of service." Spurgeon says "The priest of God, when consecrated first, was washed from head to foot, and so baptised into

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the service of the sanctuary; but each time he went to offer sacrifice he washed his feet and his hands in the brazen laver."

10. Why did Jesus say that not all of His disciples were "clean"? Judas Iscariot was still present. He quotes.

**Psalm 41:9 Even my close friend in whom I trusted,
Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.**

Some might expect Jesus to use his supreme power and rank to defeat the devil in an immediate and flashy confrontation. Instead, Jesus washes his disciples' feet including Judas's. Judas had his feet literally washed, but he had no part with Jesus because Judas did not let Jesus wash him in the sense Jesus meant here. He is revealing to Judas and the other disciples that He has foreknowledge of Judas' actions and that those actions should not discourage the other disciples. Sharing a meal was like sealing a friendship. In one ancient epic, two warriors, discovering that their fathers had shared table fellowship a generation earlier, realized that they could not fight each other.

11. How did Jesus identify the disciple who had "lifted up his heel against" Him? The foreknowledge of Judas' crime did not relieve the Lord from the sting of it. By the use of the word "betray" Jesus revealed to Judas that he had perfect knowledge of the peculiar crime which he was about to commit. He wants Judas to understand that he is working against One with whom he had inmate knowledge and closest type of fellowship.

Judas' Betrayal and Peter's Denial Foretold

Read John 13:21-38

12. When Jesus said one of the disciples would betray Him, what question did the disciples ask Him? They ask who was the betrayer. "Is it I?" How did He identify the betrayer? According to Oriental custom, one dish served to hold the sauce for several people, that they might dip their bread into it. In so large a company, two or three bowls would be used for convenience' sake. The words of Jesus, therefore, limited the circle of accused ones from twelve to four or five, and also further emphasized the tender and close intimacy between the traitor and the Master. It is the one I honor by giving the bread dipped in the sauce. This custom usually was the honored guest.

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13. After giving Judas the piece of bread, He had dipped, what did Jesus say to Him? "Hurry—do it now." Jesus even gave Judas the chance to repent without revealing him as the traitor to all the other disciples. He dismisses Judas from his presence with words which fix the manner in which the deed should be done. It was important for Jesus to tell the disciples that He was not surprised by the betrayal that would soon happen. What did the other disciples think when Judas left? Some thought that since Judas was their treasurer, Jesus was telling him to go and pay for the food or to give some money to the poor.

14. After Judas had departed, what did Jesus say to the remaining disciples? That the time for His glory had come and that they would not see Him just as He had told the Jewish leaders. Jesus rejoices that the true glory of God is about to be immediately manifested in himself.

15. What new commandment did Jesus give the disciples? Love each other just as much as I love you. Why would it be considered "new"? A love which had Christ's heart as the standard would of necessity be new, and would distinguish those who possessed it from all men. What would their obedience to this command illustrate to others? It would prove to the world that they were Jesus' followers.

16. What objection did Peter raise? Peter wanted to know where Jesus was going and he said that he was ready to die with Jesus. What was Jesus' response to him? Three times before the cock crows tomorrow morning, you will deny that you even know me!

Read Luke 22:31-38

17. What preparations did Jesus tell the disciples they would now have to make? They need to take their clothes and money with them. They need to be ready for attacks. Why were such preparations necessary? In this passage our Lord draws a contrast between the favor with which his messengers had been received on their former mission and the trials and persecutions which awaited them in their future course. If they had prepared then to be received with joy, they were to prepare now to be opposed with bitterness; for the utter rejection of the Master would be followed by the violent persecution of the servants.

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The Lord's Supper Instituted

Read Luke 22:19-20

18. What new feast did Jesus institute while gathered with His disciples in the upper room? The Lord's Supper or communion. This is how we remember what Jesus did for us. As we eat the bread, we should remember how Jesus was broken, pierced, and beaten with stripes for our redemption. As we drink the cup, we should remember that His blood, His life was poured out on Calvary for us. This is how we fellowship with Jesus. Because His redemption has reconciled us to God, we can now sit down to a meal with Jesus, and enjoy each other's company. Carson says "What is certain is that Jesus bids us commemorate, not his birth, nor his life, nor his miracles, but his death."

19. What new significance did Jesus give the unleavened bread? It was to symbolize his body. Unleavened bread is symbolic of purity and is appropriate to represent the sinless body of Christ. When the bread was lifted up at Passover, the head of the meal said: "This is the bread of affliction which our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. Let everyone who hungers come and eat; let everyone who is needy come and eat the Passover meal." The fruit of the vine? Luke distinguishes between the cup taken during and that taken after supper. The first cup belonged to the Passover, the second to the Lord's Supper. Wine, mingled with water, was drunk during the paschal supper. Jesus took a cup of this for his new institution. But the word "wine" is nowhere used in any of the accounts of the Lord's Supper, the terms "cup" and "fruit of the vine" are used, therefore, unfermented grape juice is still proper. It was the practice of Eastern peoples to use blood in making any pact or covenant. Christ's blood ratifies or seals the new covenant, so he makes the cup the symbol of that blood. The old covenant promised the land of Canaan and Christ in the flesh to the Israelites, while the new covenant promises heaven and Christ in glory to the Christian. NIV Application Commentary says this about the Lord's Supper. There is a "dual affirmation of the meal: We proclaim both the Lord's death and our community oneness with fellow celebrants at the table. This combination was designed to drive us to act in a way that affirms what we share so fundamentally through Jesus' death. That reminder is a healthy one, even as we recall what this meal is all about. The church is not ours, but His. Our life is not

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ours, but His. Our relationship to one another is not an accident, but a product of great design and cost. That theological reality should cause us to relate to each other with great sensitivity."

Closing prayer: Dear God, I come to You today to praise and glorify Your name. You have showered us with wonderful gifts. The best gift of all is giving Your son to save us from our sins. Amen.

Luke 22:1-6	John 13:1-20
Luke 22:7-18	John 13:21-38
Luke 22:24-30	
Luke 22:31-38	
Luke 22:19-20	