

Beginning the Year at the Lord's Table
Luke 22:7-30

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Text: ⁷ Then the Day of Unleavened Bread came when the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us, so we can eat it."

⁹ "Where do You want us to prepare it?" they asked Him.

¹⁰ "Listen," He said to them, "when you've entered the city, a man carrying a water jug will meet you. Follow him into the house he enters. ¹¹ Tell the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover with My disciples?'" ¹² Then he will show you a large, furnished room upstairs. Make the preparations there."

¹³ So they went and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴ When the hour came, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. ¹⁵ Then He said to them, "I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks, He said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

¹⁹ And He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

²⁰ In the same way He also took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant established by My blood; it is shed for you. ²¹ But look, the hand of the one betraying Me is at the table with Me! ²² For the Son of Man will go away as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!"

²³ So they began to argue among themselves which of them it could be who was going to do this thing.

²⁴ Then a dispute also arose among them about who should be considered the greatest. ²⁵ But He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles dominate them, and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' ²⁶ But it must not be like that among you. On the contrary, whoever is greatest among you must become like the youngest, and whoever leads, like the one serving. ²⁷ For who is greater, the one at the table or the one serving? Isn't it the one at the table? But I am among you as the One who serves. ²⁸ You are the ones who stood by Me in My trials. ²⁹ I bestow on you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one on Me, ³⁰ so that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom. And you will sit on thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel.

The Lord's Table is a place that. . .

Reminds us of God's Passion.

Luke tells us that this last meal of Jesus and the disciples was in an upper room. They shared the Passover meal together. During the meal, some of the elements of that meal began to be object lessons as Jesus told the disciples about His death and the significance of that death.

Jesus spoke of giving Himself (His all) for them and for us. The most significant phrase might be that phrase "for you." Jesus gave us Himself. He is giving us eternal life and abundant life. He says that in a personal way—you. He knew of the betrayal and the desertions to come. He knew of our sin. But He gave all.

Reveals our Pride.

When the disciples begin to debate whom is the greatest they are asking the wrong question at the wrong time. Coming to the table can reveal our pride. It is actually the time to be cleansed from our pride.

Refocuses our Priorities.

We have asked the question of what we will be doing in 2015. I pray that now we refocus our priorities.

Scripture Meditation for Silent Reading during the Distribution of the Bread

(1 Corinthians 11:17-24)

¹⁷ Now in giving the following instruction I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For, to begin with, I hear that when you come together as a church there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ There must, indeed, be factions among you, so that the approved among you may be recognized. ²⁰ Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not really to eat the Lord's Supper. ²¹ For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others, and one person is hungry while another is drunk! ²² Don't you have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you look down on the church of God and embarrass those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I praise you? I do not praise you for this!

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: on the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, ²⁴ gave thanks, broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

Scripture Meditation for Silent Reading during the Distribution of the Cup

(1 Corinthians 11:25-26)

²⁵ In the same way [He] also [took] the cup, after supper, and said, "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.

(Isaiah 53:4-6)

⁴ Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses,
and He carried our pains;
but we in turn regarded Him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He was pierced because of our transgressions,
crushed because of our iniquities;
punishment for our peace was on Him,
and we are healed by His wounds.

⁶ We all went astray like sheep;
we all have turned to our own way;
and the LORD has punished Him
for the iniquity of us all.