

April 1 2021

Maundy Thursday

Luke 22:1-27

We hear the story of the Last Supper from Luke's Gospel. How Jesus and His disciples gathered in the upper room of Mark's mother's house. This would proceed as a usual Passover meal. Yet there are some oddities about the event. This Supper is held on Thursday evening. Passover would start Friday evening. Remember how the Jews did not want to defile themselves from eating Passover by entering Pilate's house or the Praetorium on Friday.

On Maundy Thursday evening Jesus sets things in motion to deliver humanity from the power of sin. He will accomplish this through His death on the cross the next day. Thus establishing the new covenant He speaks about at supper. This Passover meal Jesus shares with His disciples will truly be The Last Supper. It will continue on in the Eucharist of our church and it will reach its fulfillment in the Kingdom of God. Eucharist celebrations have an earthly and Heavenly reality as well as a physical and spiritual to them.

Did you notice in Luke verses 17 and 20 that he reports the partaking of two cups of wine? This was very common to have several cups to be offered during the Passover meal. Many times we have assumed that there was only one cup. Having many cups for such a large group only makes practical sense.

Maundy is an old Latin term meaning to command. So this evening is Command Thursday. So what are we actually being commanded to do? We have been commanded to have eucharist as Our Lord has taught us in His example. That it is for the remission of sins and that it is open to all. Our Lord did not exclude Judas Iscariot from partaking. The example set is clear. That all are invited to the feast of the Last Supper.

At the eucharist we become truly united to Christ. We all make up the Body of Christ. The first thing Jesus did over the bread and wine was to give thanks to God. That we as the Body of Christ are to be grateful to God for all that He provides for us. Thus far we have been commanded to give thanks to God, to invite all to the Eucharist and that it is for the remission of our sins. Remember that we do not have to be Holy to receive it, but when we do it makes us Holy. Some would argue that it maybe Wholly.

At the end of the reading Jesus illustrates very powerfully the last command. He explains that the greatest among them is the one who serves. That person is the greatest. Jesus illustrates this very drastically by washing the disciples feet. Be humble in your service to others. After He washes their feet then He tells them to do the same.

This evening also has a very heavy prophetic tone to it. As do the coming three days. The Prophet King David speaks about this in his Psalm 41. David talks about the murderous mob in verse 17, "All who hate me whisper together against me. Against me they devise my demise." That once Jesus is dead and lying in the tomb they are still talking about Him. Verse 8, "And now that He lies down, he will rise up no more." Judas and his betrayal is mentioned in verse 9 and the Last Supper and the sharing of bread. "Even my own familiar friend in

whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.”
The psalm also references Our Lord’s resurrection in verse 10. “But You
O’ Lord, be merciful to me and raise me up. That I may repay them. By
this I know that You are well pleased with me. Because my enemies did
not triumph over me.”

Think about what we have been commanded to do. Especially when
we celebrate together on Easter Sunday morning. God bless and take
care, Pastor D