



GROW AT HOME

DAILY DEVOTION

DAY 23

READ

MARK 14:22-25, 43-52

FOCUS

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."

REFLECTION from PASTOR CODY SURRATT

It is Thursday of Holy Week (known as Maundy Thursday). Jesus knows His time is coming near and today we arrive at one of the most iconic scenes in Jesus' ministry. In fact, the depiction of the event, painted by Leonardo da Vinci in the late 15th century, would become one of the world's most recognizable paintings: the Last Supper. The theological and practical implications of what took place that night are still being felt to this very day.

To understand its significance, we need to back up roughly 1400 years before Jesus arrived on the scene to when the people of Israel were enslaved in Egypt. You may know how the story goes: Moses demanded his people be let go but Pharaoh said no, so God sent a series of plagues. The last plague was the death of the firstborn in every household in Egypt--unless each family sacrificed a lamb and covered their doorposts in its blood. If they did this, God would "pass over" their house and they would be saved. It was this final plague that convinced Pharaoh to let the Israelites go free and begin their journey toward the Promised Land. From that day forward the Israelites celebrated the Passover by slaying a lamb and eating it together as a family--both remember how God had freed them in the past and also looking forward to the day God would free them, once and for all, through the promised Messiah.

It was during the Passover celebration that Jesus called His disciples together in the Upper Room to share the Passover meal together. What happened that night would not only surprise the disciples, it would have both a theological and practical impact that would change the world forever. Mark 14:22-25 describes the scene,

"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.' Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,' he said to them. '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.'"

No doubt the disciples were confused about what this meant, but what Jesus was doing at that moment was saying, "Passover was just a pointer to this moment; the moment when God would send the Ultimate Sacrifice so that you may be free from what truly enslaves you--sin and death." Jesus would be the lamb that was slain and it would be through His blood that God would "pass over" their deserved punishment.

Then Jesus did something that staggered them. He knelt down and began to wash the disciples' feet. Their Master, Rabbi, Messiah, grabbed hold of their dirty, calloused feet and began to scrub. Years ago, I was on a mission trip in Guatemala and we delivered shoes to poor villagers. Before they put their shoes on we washed their feet. You may not know this about me, but I'm a bit of a germaphobe. This was NOT a comfortable situation for me (to say the least). And if that wasn't enough to freak me out completely, to kneel before someone--to get down into the dirt and serve them in that way--was a truly humbling experience. I am a nobody, and if this was humbling for me, think about how much more so it was for the Creator and Savior of the world!



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DAILY DEVOTION

DAY 23

REFLECTION from PASTOR CODY SURRATT (CONTD)

The Last Supper teaches us two things: who Jesus is and who we should be. Jesus is the Messiah, the King of all creation: the One all of human history has been pointing toward, and yet at the same time, He is a Servant. He took all the things we thought we knew about the world and turned them upside down. He redefines greatness: power through weakness, majesty through meekness, confidence through humility. He is a Servant King. Not only was He showing us who He is, but who we should be as His followers. If we want to be great in God's economy, we must recognize that God's plan will oftentimes stand in opposition to "greatness" in the eyes of the world. We are called to sacrifice, we are called to servanthood, we are called to LOVE the world around us...just as Christ has loved us.

QUESTIONS

- DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE A HUMBLE PERSON? HOW HAS GOD BEEN TEACHING YOU HUMILITY LATELY?
- HOW HAVE YOU SEEN SOMEONE SHOW GREATNESS THROUGH HUMBLE SERVICE? HOW IS GOD CALLING YOU TO GROW IN THIS AREA?

SONG OF THE DAY

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