

# HOW DO WE REMEMBER?

Jesus' sacrifice is to be reverently remembered through the observing of the Lord's Supper.



**TRANSFORMATION**  
for Adult LifeGroups

MATTHEW 26:17-30

FEBRUARY 21, 2018/FEBRUARY 25, 2018

## TODAY'S TEXT

**Text:** MATTHEW 26:17-30 (NIV), *On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?" 18 He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.'" 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. 20 When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. 21 And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." 22 They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?" 23 Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 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." 25 Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "You have said so." 26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." 27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the[a] covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." 30 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

## FIRST THOUGHTS

- What are some key events we commemorate in our society? In our families? What makes them worthy of remembering?
- Why is it important for you to remember these events, whether they were positive or negative in nature?

Today we are going to look at the importance of remembering the Lord's Supper and what it has to teach us as Christians.

## UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

Two days before Jesus went to the cross, He told His disciples He would be crucified. At the same time, the chief priests gathered to find a way to kill Jesus. They wanted to kill Him but feared that it would cause a riot among the many people who favored Him (Matt. 26:1-5).

At the house of Simon the leper later that evening, Jesus enjoyed some time with His followers. While He reclined at the table, an unidentified woman approached Him and poured a vial of expensive perfume on His head. Jesus' disciples complained that the perfume had been wasted. They said that selling the perfume and giving the money to the poor would have been better. Once more, Jesus pointed to His crucifixion and affirmed that what she had done was a lavish act of worship. The perfume prepared His body for burial. Also, the account of her sacrificial act of worship would accompany the proclamation of the gospel (26:6-13).

Not long afterward, Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' disciples, made his way to the chief priests. He told them he would be willing to betray Jesus. They agreed to pay him 30 pieces of silver for his act of betrayal (26:14-16).

As Passover approached, Jesus' disciples set out to prepare for the meal. As they shared the meal, He introduced what would come to be called the Lord's Supper. Afterward, Jesus assured the disciples that they would fall away for a while and that He would meet them in Galilee after His resurrection. Peter vowed that he would never fall away. Jesus told him that he would deny Him before the rooster crowed (26:17-35).

## EXPLORE THE TEXT

### PREPARATION

> Read Matthew 26:17-19

- Why was it important for Jesus and His disciples to observe Passover?
- How did Jesus' disciples prepare for the Passover?

## BETRAYAL

### > Read Matthew 26:20-25

- How did the disciples respond to Jesus' declaration that one of them would betray Him?
- In what ways do we betray Jesus today?

## REMEMBRANCE

### > Read Matthew 26:26-30

- How did Jesus give new meaning to the elements of the Passover meal?
- How does remembering Jesus' sacrifice help us in daily living?
- How can we keep the memory of these symbols fresh in our own hearts each time we take part in the Lord's Supper?

## SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

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- What are the best ways we can remember Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf?
  - Believers can recognize God's provisions, being thankful for what He provides.
  - None of us are beyond betraying Christ, so we must be diligent in our loyalty.
  - Believers are to be constantly mindful of Jesus' sacrifice on their behalf.

**Personal Challenge:** Carve out time this week to pause and reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made for you. Then when you approach the Lord's Supper, look at the table—the bread and the cup—with fresh eyes, appreciating all Jesus has done for you.

We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper on Sunday, March 11, at all campuses (also on Wednesday, March 7, at Hodges).

## UPCOMING LESSONS

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- Read Matthew 26:36-46
- Reflect on a recent crisis in your life and how prayer impacted you or the crisis you encountered.
- Next week will look at the strength it takes to submit to God's plan.

## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

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**25th** - Numbers 17-18; Psalm 29; Mark 4 | **26th** - Numbers 19-20; Psalm 28; Mark 5 | **27th** - Numbers 21-23; Mark 6-7 | **28th** - Numbers 24-27; 1 Corinthians 13 | **1st** - Numbers 28-29; Mark 8 | **2nd** - Numbers 30-31; Mark 9 | **3rd** - Numbers 32-33; Mark 10