

Jesus knows the Passover is approaching, so he makes preparations to use a room in a home.

- How many in your party? 26
- Wow, that many? No, only 13 but we will all sit on one side of the table

As we move through the Gospels, the shadow of the cross grows longer and darker until this morning where we stand at the foot of the cross on the evening before the crucifixion

- In a matter of hours, Jesus would hang on the cross for us (15-18 hrs)

But first, dinner – one last meal with his followers – not just any meal – Passover

- Festival of immense scale and enthusiastic devotion
- Remember how God delivered them out of slavery in Egypt
- Kill a lamb, feast
- Seder, order of service

Jesus secretly makes plans for this feast and send 2 people to Jerusalem to help prepare

Disciples arrive, eat and go through their celebration

- Jesus rises and does something remarkable
- Takes off his nice shirt, wraps a towel around him and began to wash feet
- Weird to us, extremely weird to them – servants job (Hebrew slave)
- Silence in the room as the master rose and prepared to wash everyone's feet
 - o What is he doing? Amazement and shock
- Jesus pours water into the bowl, just as he was about to pour out his blood to wash away human sin

Silence in the room, Jesus moves from person to person

- Hear pouring water
- Gentle breathing

What was Jesus thinking?

- Thomas & Mark – these feet will be beautiful as they travel great distances to spread the Gospel
- Judas – These will soon steal away in the dark and betray me
- Peter – “Are you going to wash me?” “Yes, you don't understand right now, but you will.”

Vs. 8 – Never ever!

- If not, you won't have a part with me, belong to me

Vs. 9 – “Then bathe all of me”

- Peter goes overboard – his tendency
- Doesn't really know what he's asking

Vs. 10-11 – As much of the evening, this was symbolic

- What started out as cleaning the dust off dirty, nasty feet, Jesus transformed into a powerful symbolic act and teaching.
- Jesus transformed foot washing
 - o Those who have been washed through Jesus' once-for-all death also need daily cleansing of their sins – symbolic of washing feet

Vs. 12-20 – Jesus explains more about why he just washed everyone's feet – paradigm shift

- Service – Jesus set the example for us – (most sermons stop)
- Messenger not greater than the one who sent him
 - o No kidding? Truth is lost on us
 - o We are Jesus' messengers – ok I get it
 - o We get bent out of shape when hardships come, when life doesn't go our way – marriage, death, work
- What happened Jesus?
 - o We are told by popular pastors and prominent leaders that God wants you to be happy, healthy and wealthy – total bull and that's exactly what Jesus says
 - o In a matter of hours, he would be betrayed by someone at his table, disowned by Peter and strung up on a cross

Vs. 21-30 – Shock to his disciples – one in their midst would betray Jesus?

- How could this betrayal happen?

Jesus tells them because he doesn't want them to be freaked out when it happens – be prepared

Who? – The one whom I give this bread to

- Take a morsel from the table, dip it in the common dish, and offer it to someone was a gesture of special friendship
- Ruth and Boaz
- Judas – here is my friendship, here is restoration, here is my heart
 - o All you have to do is take it my friend
 - o Mt. – Judas says me? Yes, you – later that night, betrayal for silver

So interesting that the disciples had no clue

- Judas could have won an Oscar – quite the actor
- 12 men spent 3 yrs together
- Judas said and did the right things and no one knew – far from Jesus

We say “how can Judas do that? – self-righteous

- Quick to condemn Judas
- Fail to realize we are often just like Judas – for far less – through sin

Sin: small 3 letter word offensive in our culture – more so for Jesus

What is sin? – Westminster Shorter Catechism (summary of Christian principles – Q&A):

- You sin when you do not follow the rule of God gives you or when you outright go against God
- Omission – not doing what you should
- Commission – doing what you shouldn't

Any sin is an act of rebellion and rejection of Jesus

- "I know better than you do, God"
- Masked as good
 - o Work harder – I don't trust you to provide
 - I don't think your blood is enough to forgive me
 - o Not work – focus on my family
- Blatantly bad
 - o Disobey parents
 - o Lying
 - o Lust

I don't need Jesus, I don't want God

The amazing thing is despite this, Jesus still pursues us

- All that night, Jesus pursued Judas – like us

Luke 22:19-20 – Luke gives us another event that night – Lord's Supper

- New cov't of my blood, Jesus contrasted his atoning work (shedding blood) w/ Old Cov't ocean of blood

Exodus – everything of significance was doused w/blood – altar, people, scroll

- Dripped w/blood – not a pretty sight
 - o Emphasized seriousness of sin
 - o Teach payment for sin was death
- Weakness of OC was it depended on people keeping the law – couldn't = repeated sacrifices to atone for sins

Jesus changes all this – death would once-for-all cleanse sin – those who follow

Jesus does it all

When we sin, we are faced with a dilemma

1. Run away – Judas
2. Run towards Jesus and embrace him – accept forgiveness

Each time we gather – Lord's supper

- Remember Jesus' death for us
- Remember grace – forgiveness we don't deserve