



**THURSDAY 02.25.10**

**John 13:1-17**

Our journey to the cross begins in the Upper Room with Jesus and his disciples. For a formal celebration like this, it would have been typical for a servant to wash the feet of those participating in the meal. Jesus took it upon himself to perform this menial task.

- Any of Jesus' disciples could have performed these foot washings as an act of service, but none made the effort to do so. In what ways are you seeking out opportunities to serve others in ways that are beyond their expectations? How might God be calling you to serve in this way?
- Peter was troubled by Jesus' act. Perhaps he was ashamed that he had not thought of it first or he felt unworthy to receive this gift. In what ways do you feel unworthy of God's gift? What steps have you taken to receive what God desires to share?

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**FRIDAY 02.26.10**

**John 15:1-17**

The Gospel writer John records for us in chapters 14-16 the words of comfort and hope that Jesus offers to his disciples during the Passover meal. In response to this knowledge that he would soon depart from their presence, Jesus conveys to them a very simple task, "Remain in me."

- Jesus says that fruit comes from "remaining" in him. Jesus seems to be conveying that the natural product of a deep and abiding relationship with him is fruit — "fruit that will last." What are some of those fruits? In what ways do you see those fruits in your life?
- Jesus gives to his disciples a strict command, "Love each other." Is love the "essential" fruit of faith? In what ways might you be challenged to grow in your capacity to love?

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# GROW • PRAY • STUDY

A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

**Series:** 24 Hours That Changed the World  
**Sermon:** The Last Supper  
**Scripture:** Matthew 26:17-30

*Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:*

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## Introduction

During Lent we will be walking through Matthew 26-28 and exploring the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. This weekend we are looking at the Last Supper recorded in Matthew 26:17-30. In our reading this week we will look at the origin of the Passover meal Jesus shares with his disciples, as well as how the other Gospel writers record this moment. As you read, pay attention to how Jesus serves his disciples and reflect on the emotions that Jesus was experiencing as he prepares for what was to happen next.

In only a day's time, Jesus would be betrayed by one of his own, tried and convicted by the Roman governor, tortured by the Roman soldiers and crucified by these same men. As the disciples gathered at this meal to remember God's deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt, Jesus pointed them to the next act of this great story — Jesus offering himself as the Passover lamb to set his people free once again.

As you reflect on your readings for this week, may this prayer guide you:  
***Lord, we give you thanks for this sacred meal in which we remember all that you have given. Enable us to experience anew the love and grace that led you over the last 24 hours of your life on earth. Help us, Lord, to receive with an open heart the gift of salvation and our calling to be your disciples in our world. AMEN.***



## TUESDAY 02.23.10

## Mark 14:12-25

Why Judas chose to betray Jesus remains a mystery still today. Had Judas lived to see Easter Sunday, we might have learned more about his intentions. The guilt of his actions overwhelmed Judas. He never recovered, taking his own life after returning the 30 silver coins he had received to betray Jesus.

- Jesus is about to be betrayed by one of his own. How does Jesus respond? He offers the bread and the cup to the one who will betray him. What does this say about Jesus and his love for Judas?
- Is it too much of a stretch to assume that Judas would have received the same forgiveness and grace offered to the other disciples who deserted Jesus? If Jesus could have forgiven Judas, what might he be willing to offer you?

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## MONDAY 02.22.10

## Exodus 12:21-28

In preparation for Passover, the population of Jerusalem swelled as Jews gathered to remember God's deliverance of the Israelites from the hands of Pharaoh. Passover refers to the last plague where God's spirit fell upon Egypt, claiming the first-born child in every home that did not have the blood of the Passover lamb sprinkled on its door post. The Passover meal was a time to remember God's action on behalf of his people living in bondage.

- Throughout scripture God calls us to participate in times of remembrance. The season of Lent is a time in which we remember the deliverance offered in Christ. As we focus on the last 24 hours of Jesus' life, how has he delivered you?
- How does the act of remembering enable you to become a more deeply committed follower of Jesus?

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## WEDNESDAY 02.24.10

## Luke 22:14-32

Luke tells us that Jesus has "anticipated" sharing this meal with his disciples. Yet, even in these last few moments, Jesus does so with the knowledge that one of them will betray him, and the rest are arguing over who will be the greatest in this new Kingdom. Even now, the disciples do not understand what is to come.

- In response to the dispute over who will be greatest, Jesus offers these words, "You are not to be like that." In what ways do you find yourself tempted to seek out greatness rather than a place of service?
- This scene ends with Jesus conveying to Peter that he has been praying for Peter so that his "faith may not fail." If you could ask Jesus to pray for you today, for what would you ask him to pray?

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