

Come And See Part 2

The Last Supper

John 13:1-30, Matthew 26:17-35

Memory Verses: Matthew 20:28

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

On Easter morning in **Matthew 28:6**; the angels tell Mary the mother of Jesus and Mary Magdalen, as they approach the throne, **"He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."** The season of Lent and Easter is upon us and so we are in a series aptly called Come and See.

Easter is all about coming and seeing. Come and see what Jesus' last weeks were like, come and see what his last words were to his disciples before his crucifixion, come and see him in the garden weeping tears of blood, come and see our Lord take his last breaths upon the cross, and come and see him triumphantly rise from the grave. Come and See.

Last week we began this series as we looked at the four or five different times that Jesus made it clear to the disciples and the world that he was going to die and be resurrected three days later. In fact, last week, I referred to it as the Gospel of Death. Why? Because to Jesus, His death was good news. Jesus was not scared to talk about his death. It is the only way he could bring life. You can't have resurrection without death.

And so, the point was clear to us all, when we talk about death, we are not to be like the world who speaks of it as a tragedy. Rather, we are to talk of death as a good thing because through our deaths we will be resurrected with Christ to a new and eternal life that far exceeds our current one. When we share the hope of our own resurrection to the world it serves as an awe-inspiring testimony that they must give attention to. It could be that the greatest witness you could ever give to the lost is the good news of death in Christ.

Perhaps you struggled with that message last week, because death is something that you also struggle with. Perhaps it is your own death or the death of a loved one. Perhaps you are still wrestling with the idea that what for you may seem like an untimely death is God's perfect plan. That's okay. I know that it is hard to wrap your mind around the goodness of dying. That's why we have Easter. Easter is the story of Jesus' death just as much as it is the story of his resurrection. It is only in this story that we can find the goodness of death. That's why again this week we invite you to come and see.

This week we invite you to come and see the last supper. It is

here that we don't necessarily see Jesus speaking of death as much as we see him showing us how to honor his death in the way that we love him and love those he has called us to serve. Today we will see this story from four different perspectives as we read the account of the last supper from all four of the Gospels. We begin in **Matthew 26:17-20**, **Mark 14:12**, and **Luke 22:7-16**. Jesus makes it clear that he desperately wants to eat the passover supper with his disciples before he begins his suffering. Why? Why does Jesus want to eat this meal with his disciples so badly? What is the passover meal anyway?

Well, to answer that we must once again go back to the book of Exodus where in chapters 11 and 12 we see the tenth and final plague that God brought upon Egypt in order to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. The abridged version goes like this. Pharaoh has had his people and his land attacked with rivers of blood, fiery hail from the sky, boils, and all kinds of pestilence from frogs and lice to flies and locusts, and yet he in the hardness of his heart won't let the Hebrew people go, so Moses tells him, one more plague is coming, and it's the worst. God will send his death angel to kill all the firstborn of the land. Every first born son, every first born daughter, and every first born animal. There will not be a house without a lost loved one. And of course God makes good on his promise. Except he spares or "passes over" the houses which have their door frames covered in the blood of a lamb.

In order to celebrate this occasion, where God passed over the Israelites, the Hebrew people would have a huge celebration, a huge meal, and a public sacrifice of a passover lamb. Jesus wants to celebrate this special day with his disciples because he is about to be the final passover lamb. In one day he is going to give his life as the ultimate passover lamb, that whoever would believe in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. And so, around the passover table Jesus gives his disciples, and by extension us, four different ways we can respond to Him as the lamb of God who passes over those covered by His blood. We can respond in humility and serve others. Or we can respond in unbelief and betray him. We can respond in worship and remember him through communion. Or we can respond in fear and deny Him. The point is this; **How We See Jesus Determines How We Respond To His Sacrifice!**

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing that I think Jesus wants us to see about himself at the Last Supper is... **When We See Jesus As The Son Of Man We Will Serve Each Other In Humility**. When you put this story from the four Gospels side by side, all of the elements don't match up exactly. While some seem to be telling the story in chronological time, Luke in particular seems to merely mention the events that took place, perhaps as he heard it, but not in a particular order. That is why most theologians believe that the portion

from Luke where the disciples argue over who will be the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven happens at the beginning of the meal. This makes sense for a couple of reasons. First, as the meal began they would most likely be picking chairs closest to Christ. In determining who sat where there could have easily stirred up a conversation as to who would sit closest to him in Heaven; be the greatest. Secondly, as this part of the story is only found in Luke and ends with Jesus talking about servitude, it makes sense that it would proceed the washing of the feet. Let's read this part together in [Luke 22:24-30](#).

In speaking about who is great, Jesus makes a couple of points. He says that the greatest should be like the youngest, the greatest should be like a servant, and that there are rewards in heaven for humble servitude in this life. In short, the best way to lead or be great in this life is to serve others in humility. But rather than just verbally teaching this life lesson, Jesus demonstrates. Jesus takes the towel from around his waste and begins to wash his disciples feet. Again, this part is only found in one of the Gospels, but this time it is in John. Let's read together [John 13:1-17](#). And while I'm reading I'm going to ask our deacons to make their way forward to these five chairs.

I'm going to ask you men to remove your shoes and socks please. Now, I'm going to be as transparent as I possibly can. This is probably uncomfortable for these men, it may be uncomfortable for you... it most certainly is uncomfortable to me. I have seen feet washing ceremonies in weddings and other occasions since I was little and they've always made me feel a little uneasy. I've always seen them as kind of cheesy I guess. And the only reason I'm putting aside my personal preferences this morning is to demonstrate the humility of Christ. [Wash Deacon's feet](#).

Now, Peter didn't understand why Jesus would be washing his feet. Foot washing was reserved for the lowest of servants. These people didn't have good shoes, or socks. They either went barefoot or they had sandals. And they didn't have sidewalks or paved roads. They walked in dirt and mud. They walked on the same roads that the sheep and goats and cattle and donkeys would walk. They would have to watch their step if you know what I mean. That's why it was a very lowly job to wash mud and animal droppings off of peoples feet. Peter says, no Lord, you cannot do this to me! Jesus says If I don't clean you then you don't have a place with me in Heaven. Peter says wash all of me.

The point is this. Jesus was showing them an example of being servants. If your Lord is willing to wash your feet instead of reclining and letting others do the lowly jobs, then you should also learn to humble yourselves and serve as lowly servants. Thank you men.

Now, let's bring it all together. The disciples argue over who is the greatest among them, and in response Jesus washes their feet. The picture is pretty clear. We are only great when we serve. We are only

leaders when we humble ourselves. As we saw in the passages last week, Jesus would often refer to himself as the Son of Man. I've often thought this title was a little out of place. Jesus, you aren't the son of man... you are the son of God. Why did he call himself this. In [Matthew 20:28](#) we see the answer; "even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many!" Jesus didn't come that we may serve him. No, he came to serve, not be served. This is why he humbly calls himself the Son of Man, because he came to serve mankind! Listen, [the only correct response when we see the lamb of God serving mankind is to stop chasing our own glory and start serving others in the name of Christ!](#) [How We See Jesus Determines How We Respond To His Sacrifice!](#)

The second thing Jesus wants us to see here about himself at the last supper is... [When We See Jesus As A Temporary Means To An End We Will Betray Him](#). So, Jesus and the disciples eat the passover meal, the disciples argue about who will be the greatest in the kingdom, and in response Jesus washes their feet. When Jesus is done washing their feet the conversation then takes a turn where Jesus begins talking about his betrayer. Look with me in the Gospels starting with [John 13:18-30](#), [Luke 22:21-22](#), [Mark 14:18-21](#), and lastly [Matthew 26:21-25](#). This is pretty simple to understand for us in retrospect, but it wasn't easy for the disciples to understand at the time. We can clearly see that Judas was the betrayer. He says, the one I dip the bread and give it to is he. We even see Jesus say to him, go and do what you must quickly. The point being, though it's easy for us to know that Judas is the betrayer, the disciples never could have imagined that one of them, who had followed Jesus for years, could ever betray him.

So why did Judas do it? Theologians have come up with three possible answers. 1) He was merely following Jesus so he could steal from their treasury. When the money ran dry it was time to cash out while betraying Jesus and making some more bank. 2) He was merely following Jesus so that Jesus would free Israel from their current occupation and set up his earthly kingdom now. When Jesus starts talking about dying Judas may have realized that that wasn't going to happen and decided to betray him in anger. Or, 3) He was trying to force Jesus' hand. If he betrayed him and forced Jesus into a corner then Jesus would have to fight and overthrow the Romans. Regardless there are three things to note.

First, Judas was only following Jesus as a means to some end of his own desire, either money or power. When he saw that there was no end for himself, he decided to end Jesus. Second, Judas was possessed by Satan. The fact that he had never truly given himself to Christ and that he was willing to betray him gave Satan the perfect opportunity to fully take hold of him and his actions. In fact, the bible tells us that any of us who are not in Christ are susceptible to the lure of Satan and his leading. And third, God

allowed this because it was part of the plan. Jesus had to be betrayed and arrested so that he could be crucified for our sins. There is no passover lamb without the betrayal of men like Judas

Still, the point is clear, if you only see Jesus as merely a means to an end, whether that be prosperity or health or a ticket to heaven, when what you want doesn't pan out, you will betray and abandon him just like Judas. I've seen many so called "Christians" throughout the years claim that they love him and will never forsake him, but as soon as the good times they thought they were promised turn bad... they cut bait and run for the hills. Jesus is only good to them as the times are good. But, if you see Jesus as more than what he can give you... if you see him as the prize, then everything is different. You won't arbitrarily leave him at the drop of a hat. No, **if you see Jesus as the means and the end; if you see him as the all encompassing purpose and prize of this life, you will stick with him no matter what.** **How We See Jesus Determines How We Respond To His Sacrifice!**

The third thing I think Jesus wants us to see about himself at the Last supper is... **When We See Jesus As The Savior Of The World We Will Remember His Sacrifice.** Jesus eats the passover meal with his disciples, they argue over who is the greatest, Jesus washes their feet, and then outs Judas as his betrayer. But we are only half way through the last supper. Next Jesus turns his teachings and the disciples attention towards what we know of as communion, or the Lord's Supper. Let's read this from the Gospels starting in **Luke 22:17-20, Matthew 26:26-30, and Mark 14:22-26.**

First, He takes the bread and blesses it and says that this is my body broken for you, eat this in remembrance of me. Then He takes the cup and blesses it and says that this is the blood of the new covenant poured out for you, take of it in remembrance of me. In remembrance of what exactly? His sacrifice on the cross of course. His sacrifice that gives us salvation. If we truly believe that we are saved through what Christ has done for us on the cross, then if there is one thing that we should never forget, it should be the body of Jesus that was mutilated on our behalf, and the blood of his body that was spilt for our sins. It all depends on how you see Jesus. Some people may say, you do communion too often. I say, we don't do it enough. We should worship him because of his sacrifice all of the time. We should remember what he has done for us every day, multiple times throughout each day. **If you see Jesus as your savior then you will never cease to worship him for his atoning sacrifice for our sins.** If you don't see him as savior then communion and worship will mean nothing to you.

They took communion and then they worshipped him in song. I can't think of a better way to apply this teaching today than to do just that.

As the deacons make their way forward again to hand out the communion cups I would ask that you would take a moment to cleanse your heart of sin and selfishness in preparation for taking the Lord's Supper. **Communion & Worship. How We See Jesus Determines How We Respond To His Sacrifice!**

The last thing I think Jesus wants us to see about himself through the Last Supper is this... **When We Fail To See Him As Lord Of All We Will Deny Him In Fear.** Jesus and the disciples have enjoyed the passover meal together, they have argued over who the greatest is, they have had Jesus wash their feet as an example of servant leadership, they have seen Jesus out Judas as his betrayer even though they missed it, and they have seen Jesus give us a sacrament of worship through communion, but there is still one more thing here at the Last Supper. We see Jesus speak directly to Peter about his three-times denial of Him. Look with me in the Gospels starting in **Matthew 26:31-35, Mark 14:27-31, John 13:37-37, and Luke 22:31-34.**

Jesus tells the disciples that they will all fall away from him. We always give Peter such a hard time because of his denial, but Jesus makes it clear, they will all deny him or abandon him in some way. Of course upon hearing this Peter interjects and says, Lord, I will die for you, I will go to prison with you, I will do anything I must but I will never deny you. Jesus tells Peter you will deny me three times. Just as Jesus predicted Judas' betrayal, Jesus predicts Peter's denial. Of course Peter's sin is not as bad as Judas' but they both hurt Jesus in different ways. Jesus knew that Judas was not truly a believer and that he was fake. His betrayal was imminent. But, Peter was a true friend and follower. He had a closer relationship with Jesus than any of the other disciples. His denial was more personal. It hurt Jesus deeply.

Why did Peter deny Jesus. Well looking ahead a bit in **Matthew 26:69-75** we see that it was simply because Peter did not want to be put on trial as Jesus was. The crowd was obviously looking for Jesus companions and if found they would probably face some type of trial and penalty. When Peter is singled out he flat out denies that he knows Jesus because of fear. As in all things we can either be motivated by fear or we can be motivated by faith. Faith always points us in the direction of Jesus' plans for our lives. Fear usually sends us in the other direction. What determines which one we are motivated by? Whether we see Jesus as our Lord or not. **If we see Jesus as our Lord then we know that he is in charge, in control, and that wherever he leads us we will be fine.** If we don't see him as Lord then we will not trust him and will be more susceptible to going our own way and denying him. **How We See Jesus Determines How We Respond To His Sacrifice!**

Application

The application today is simple. How do you see Jesus. The whole purpose of the Last Supper during the passover is for us to correlate Jesus with the Passover Lamb. In being our passover lamb, the last passover lamb given for the sins of the world, he shows himself to be our servant, our savior, and our Lord.

Conclusion

Some may see him as a means to an end or simply nothing of importance. If that's the case we can't expect anything from you except betrayal and denial. But if you see him as our servant, savior, and Lord then you will respond to him in serving, worship, remembrance, loyalty, and trust. **How We See Jesus Determines How We Respond To His Sacrifice!**