

Fasting: Wednesday

TRUTH IS HARD TO SWALLOW: A REVEALING DINNER LEADS TO AN HONEST PRAYER

Scripture: John 13-17 (wisdom of Christ to His disciples at/during the last supper.)

Mark 14:17 -42 (Betrayed , Food and Weakness)

Matthew 26:20-46 (Denial and a prayer)

“14 If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, **that you also should do just as I have done** to you. 16 Truly, truly, I say to you, **a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.** 17 If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. 18 I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’ 19 I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place **you may believe that I am he** (John 13:14-19)

“And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. 18 And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, **one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.**” 19 They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, “**Is it I?**” 20 He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. 21 For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born (Mark 14:17-21).”

“ Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ 32 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” 33 Peter answered him, “**Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.**” 34 Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, **you will deny me three times.**” 35 Peter said to him, “**Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!**” And all the disciples said the same (Matthew 26:31-35).”

“Then he said to them, “**My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.**” 39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “**My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.**” 40 And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? 41 **Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**” 42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, **if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.**” 43 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. 44 So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, **saying the same words again.** 45 Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand (Matthew 26:38-46).”

The scene is set. The Lord, the one you have been following for 3 years. The Son of Man, his sermons and teaching has inspired you in more way than you can imagine. The Christ, the savior of the world sits in front of you. How blessed are you that you not only get to be in His presence but you now get to eat the most sacred and anointed of all the dinners with Him. Then He does something unheard of. He takes off His shirt and tells you to sit down and He begins to take off your sandals to wash your feet. You immediately shout "NO!! Lord that is not who you are!" Then He stares at you straight in your eyes and says, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me ." In bewilderment you watch as your Lord does the lowest act of all the servants.

I often wonder at what point in our Church history or in our personal lives did we lose this type of reverence for God. Now a days we wouldn't even think twice for asking God for anything treating him like our own personal Genie in a bottle. Yes we ask God for the impossible all the time, matter of fact most of prayers are probably centered around making deals with Him instead of just simply wanting to be in His presence. No wonder the next few verses Jesus calls out His disciples and says "One of you will betray me tonight." Then they all start asking, "Is it I?" You would think you would know if it was you. Yet I believe we all have these tendencies. We love the Lord and sing His praise until times get rough or hard and then we either blame God or ask where He's at. Even in the midst of all the excuses and pointing of fingers in our life Jesus still loves us! Knowing the betrayal, knowing the denial, and knowing all the disciples will all leave Him, He still stays and loves on them anyways. Still teaches them and still shows them grace and mercy. If were honest, one person cuts us off on the freeway and all kinds of curses come out and we don't even know them! But the greatest part of Gods love for us in found in the garden scene. Its not like pointing fingers and blame game didn't effect Him. He gets to the garden and it says, "My [Jesus] soul is very sorrowful, even to death." Then asks for one request. Keep watch with me. Then Christ goes and prays the single greatest prayer in all of humanity. "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not my will, but your will be done." Then He returns to see His disciples asleep missing a moment that could have been a blessing for them. Jesus doesn't get mad or frustrated, but simply understands what they are going through. I know there is a lot here, but where do you stand? Are you like Judas just seeing what you can get out of Jesus, not truly believing but wanting from Him? Are you like the disciples, having knowledge of Christ but still falling asleep when He asks you to do something and missing out on His blessings? To be honest with yourself is one of the hardest things you will ever do in life, but the outcome could be the greatest blessing you have ever known. So be honest with yourself today. Who is Christ to you? What does He mean to you? What are you willing to sacrifice to be in His presence?

DAILY PRAYER:

Holy Spirit, we ask for your truth to go forth and to be louder than all the lies in our world. May your truth reign and your kingdom advance. Today we pray and ask for wisdom and discernment. Teach us though your Holy Word, and convict us where we are wrong. Lead us in your way everlasting. Fill us with the fruit that comes from walking with you, Holy Spirit. In Jesus' mighty name we pray, Amen.