

SUPPER IS SERVED // LUKE 22: 7-23

From the series, The Gospel of Luke

Main Idea: Jesus will surrender his life fully--on schedule.

Everything that happens, including during the Passion Week, will occur not at the dictate of the devil, Judas, or the disciples. It's on God's calendar and clock. The same God that put Jesus on the cross at the specific time is the same God that orders our lives today. He's in the details (John 10:18).

1. The Lord's Secret Preparation (v. 7-13)

Jesus is aware of everything that is going on. All the others have a limited knowledge. If he had known about the preparations for the Passover meal, Judas could have used this as an opportunity to betray Jesus there. But he did not know. Jesus sends Peter and John, but even they are on a need-to-know basis—they are merely to find a man carrying a water jar (an unusual sight—water jars were usually carried by women). They didn't need to know all the details; they just needed to follow Jesus' directions. This points to the fact that in the New Testament, obedience is simple. Just do what he says. Follow his direct instructions. When Peter and John obey his directions, they find that the room is already prepared and set up. The Lord has gone before Peter and John, and everything is ready.

2. The Lord's Special Passover (v. 14-20)

The Passover was a celebration of God's deliverance of his people in Egypt. He sent a plague to destroy the firstborn of every family—except those that covered the doors with the blood of sacrificial lamb. God would “pass over” and spare these families. In the New Testament, Israel still remembered this event and crowds would pour into Jerusalem to commemorate the feast. This particular Passover is special because it will be the last Jesus will partake of until the marriage supper of the Lamb. He is anticipating the day when all believers will be gathered together in heaven (John 14); and it is a future hope that we celebrate by taking Communion together now. Jesus is making a connection between the Passover lamb and himself—the sacrifice of his body and blood will deliver all those who follow him.

3. The Lord's Shocking Prophecy (v. 21-23)

The meal points to the cross. And the path to the cross is through the hand of a betrayer, present with them. But, Jesus' death is completely contingent on what his Father had determined before the foundation of the world. He will be delivered up by the predetermined plan of God. Jesus is not a victim. It is significant that none of the other disciples suspect Judas—rather, they each question whether they themselves could be the one. Judas may seem outwardly above reproach, someone who was trusted by those who knew him. But, Jesus knew the true condition of his heart. And, although Judas would betray Jesus and collaborate with others to destroy him, Jesus was in complete control. God is sovereign over the story and over each of our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How is following Jesus a simple matter of following his directions? Is there a difference between “simple” and “easy”? How do we prepare ourselves to become more obedient followers of Jesus?
2. What are the connections between the Passover lamb and Jesus, the Lamb of God?
3. How does it impact our lives to know that God is completely in control and that everything happens according to his schedule?