

The Table is Set

Mark 14:16-24

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Mark 14:16-24** – “So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover.
 17 In the evening He came with the twelve.
 18 Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me.’
 19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, ‘Is it I?’ And another said, “Is it I?”
 20 He answered and said to them, ‘It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish.
 21 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born.’
 22 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’
 23 Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it.
 24 And He said to them, ‘This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.’”
- B. The events of our reading took place on Thursday evening, April 6, AD 30
1. This was the night of betrayal by Judas.
 2. This was the night of questioning by the apostles.
 3. This was the night of denial by Peter.
 4. This was the night of anguish in Gethsemane for our Lord.
 5. This was the night of running away by the apostles.
 6. This was the eve of Jesus’ death on the cross at Golgotha.
 7. This was the night before all the sins of the past, present, and future would be heaped upon the One who would be crucified on the center cross the following morning.
 8. But for now . . . It was the night of a great supper . . .
 - a. A supper wherein our Lord would eat his last food before His crucifixion.
 - b. A supper wherein our Lord would keep the Passover on the day before He would become our Passover. **1 Corinthians 5:7** – “For indeed Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us.”
 - c. A supper that demonstrated our Lord’s faithfulness to the Old Law as He was on the eve of bringing in a New Law.
 - d. A supper whose meaning would change:
 1. Unleavened bread would now represent His body.

2. The fruit of the vine would represent His blood.
 3. The deliverance would no longer be from Egypt but from our sins.
 9. This was the night on a new memorial that will last until Jesus' second coming at the end of the world.
 10. This was a night wherein Jesus prepared His disciples to live . . . And Himself to die.
- C. This was a night wherein a great supper was marked by great things.

THIS WAS A NIGHT MARKED BY A GREAT PREPARATION

1. While it is true that Mark 16:13 informs us that just a few hours earlier, Jesus sent two of His disciples ahead of the group to make the proper preparations for the Passover observance . . .
 - a. In a larger sense, that night had been in preparation for all the 1476 years since the Passover observance had been in effect.
 - b. In a larger sense than that, that night had been in preparation since the Garden of Eden and the giving of the first prophecy in the Bible, Genesis 3:15.
 - c. Jesus was born into this world to die so that we could die to our sins and be born into eternal life.
2. The Gospel that Christ has give us is the "good news" that:
 - a. The Lord has set the table with forgiveness.
 - b. The Lord has set the table with freedom.
 1. **John 8:32** – "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
 2. The Israelites commemorated having been set free from Egyptian slavery and bondage . . . Our commemoration is having been set free from the bondage of our sins.
 3. Jesus said it best in **John 8:36** – "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."
 - c. The Lord has set the table with fullness.
 1. No one is all that they should be without Christ.
 2. No one is all that they can be without Christ.
 3. An empty life is the life that is lived without the fullness of Christ.
 4. Hell will be filled with empty lives . . . Heaven will be filled with Christ-filled lives.
 - d. The Lord has set the table with fellowship.
 - e. The Lord has set the table with a future that transcends time.

THIS WAS A NIGHT MARKED BY A GRACIOUS INVITATION

1. 22 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'

23 Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

24 And He said to them, 'This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.'"

2. It is a continued invitation enjoined upon God's faithful today. **I Corinthians 11:26** – "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes."
3. Like all invitations, some will accept it, and others will not. Which have you done?

THIS WAS A NIGHT MARKED BY A GRIEVOUS REJECTION

1. "Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me.'"
2. The rejection of Christ continues to this day and in every family.
 - a. Some chose to reject Christ's invitation to meet around His table today?
 - b. Some choose to reject that invitation rather regularly.

THIS WAS A NIGHT MARKED BY A GREAT RECEPTION

1. One ran away . . . 11 remained throughout the observance.
2. It is indeed an honor to be invited into someone's home for a meal. It is indeed an honor to be invited by our Lord to meet in the 'household of God' (the Church) to engage in this memorial feast every Lord's day.

THIS WAS A NIGHT MARKED BY A GREAT AND GRAVE DECLARATION

1. A great declaration concerning the unleavened bread . . . 22 "Take, eat; this is My body."
A great declaration concerning the unleavened bread . . . 24 "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many."
2. His body suffered in order to shed His blood in order to cleanse our souls from sin.
3. It has been declared . . . So let it be shared. Tell others what Christ has done.

CONCLUSION:

- A. After school, you played outside until one of three things happened. (1) It got dark. (2) Your playmates got called home. Or, (3) you got called home for supper. I remember the days of our family listening to the radio after supper and until bed. I remember the frequent announcement: "You are listening to WCKY Cincinnati 1 Ohio"

SUPPER TIME

When I was but a boy in days of childhood
I used to play till evening shadows come.
Then winding down an old familiar pathway
I heard my mother call at set of sun

Come home, come home
it's supper time
the shadows lengthen fast.
Come home, come home,
it's supper time
we're going home at last.

One day beside her bedside I was kneeling,
and angel wings were winnowing through the air.
She heard her call for supper time in heaven
and now I know she's waiting for me there.

Come home, come home
it's supper time
The shadows lengthen fast.
Come home, come home,
it's supper time,
we're going home at last.

In visions now I see her standing yonder,
and her familiar voice I hear once more.
The banquet table's ready up in heaven,
It's supper time upon that golden shore.

Come home, come home
it's supper time,
The shadows lengthen fast.
Come home, come home,
it's supper time,
we're going home at last We're going home at last.

Supper time

Come home, come home, it's suppertime
the shadows they lengthen fast.
Come home, come home, it's suppertime
We're going home at last.

You know, some of the fondest memories of my
childhood were woven around suppertime.
When Mom would come to the back steps
of the old home place and she'd say,
"Child, come on in, it's suppertime.

Oh my how I'd love to hear that once more,
but you know, time has woven the realization
of the truth that is even more thrilling and
that's when the Lord comes to the Portals Of Glory
and says to come on in, for it's suppertime.

And we'll be gathered around the table of the
Lord himself and the greatest suppertime of them all.

In visions now I see her standing yonder and her
familiar voice I hear once more.
the banquet table's ready up in Heaven.
Oh it's suppertime upon the Golden Shore.

We're going home at last!

- B. There is a final invitation for us all . . . Is this yours? For some today this will be God's last call . . . Is it God's last call to you? . . . Come home . . . **The table is set for you to make a decision**
- C. There is a table of the Lord prepared here and a great homecoming prepared there. Come home . . . It's Supper time.
- D. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**