

Series: The Gospel of Luke

Sermon: Upper Room Insights

Passage: Luke 22:14-38 (ESV)

Illustration:

Need: In the intimacy of the upper room, Jesus continues preparing His disciples for the events coming and their roles following.

I. A Better Reminder

- The Passover feast was a yearly reminder of God's past and future deliverance of Israel.
- Jesus instituted a better reminder of God's promised deliverance to be fulfilled in Himself.
- The bread, representing His body, was free of corruption (leaven), it was broken and it was given to freely to be received.
- The wine, representing His blood, would be shed in ratification of the New Covenant (Jer. 31:31-34) that provides for forgiveness of sins and changed hearts.

II. Kingdom Greatness Defined

- Boys being boys, the disciples argued about who would be greatest of them in Messiah's kingdom.
- Greatness in God's kingdom, Jesus explains, is defined differently than it is in the world.
- Earthly rulers enjoy the greatest honor and are called friends of the people, but they are demanding and punish those unwilling to serve them.
- Greatness in God's kingdom is defined by humble service as exemplified by Jesus, the greatest of all.

III. A Savior Who Intercedes

- As he had done to Job, Satan desired to disrupt the disciples in order to prove their unworthiness.
- But Jesus had interceded for Peter but not that he would not fail.
- He prayed that even after his imminent failure his faith in Jesus would not fail, that he would get up and ultimately be a more qualified leader as a result.
- We have a Savior who actively prays for us too - **Rom. 8:34** & **Heb. 7:25**
- Peter responds thinking himself more loyal than Jesus knows he will be.

IV. Preparing for Changes

- Jesus had been a respected and much beloved Rabbi but things were about to change.
- Jesus would be soon marked as a criminal and so to would His followers but this would also be the fulfillment of God's promised suffering Servant who would bring ultimate deliverance.
- The disciples had enjoyed welcome receptions and generous hospitality but moving forward they would need to be prepared for difficulty in ministry.
- The mention of swords (daggers) is difficult to understand.
 - Probably not to be understood metaphorically due to context.
 - Not to be understood as a means of aggression or dominance in advancing God's kingdom.
 - Probably a simple reference to self defense from mortal dangers along the way.

V. Application:

1. Jesus calls all disciples to the Greatness of humble service.
2. Your great failures can lead to a stronger faith if you will respond correctly in them.