

24 Hours That Changed the World by Adam Hamilton

Session 1 - The Last Supper

Session Goals:

- Explore the Gospel's account of Jesus' last supper with his disciples;
- Understand how Jesus' last supper recalls the meaning inherent in the Passover Seder and anticipates the significance of Holy Communion;
- Consider the themes of deliverance, repentance, forgiveness, and friendship that emerge from the story of the Last Supper.

Opening Prayer -

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. (Psalm 25:1-2, 16-18)

Biblical Foundation

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed . . . he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said "Take; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruits of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." (Mark 14:12, 22-25)

Watch the Video (11:25 minutes)

Questions for Discussion -

- What do you think about Judas Iscariot being seated right beside Jesus at the table and already determined to betray him? What does that say to you about the risks of Christian discipleship?
- In what way does your participation in the regular ritual of Holy Communion help you to recall your own experiences of deliverance?
- Talk about a time when you truly felt that sharing the Lord's Supper was both profoundly sacred and deeply joyful.

Bible Study and Discussion:

Read Exodus 12:21-28

21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. 22 Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. 23 When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down. 24 "Obey these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants. 25 When you enter the land that the LORD will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. 26 And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' 27 then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the LORD, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the

Egyptians.’” Then the people bowed down and worshiped. **28** The Israelites did just what the LORD commanded Moses and Aaron.

- What do you say (or should you say) to your children when they ask what the Lord’s Supper means?

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. **32** It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. **33** “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. **34** No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

- What are the implications of being bound to God by a covenant inscribed inwardly on our hearts rather than on stone tablets?

Read John 15:12-17

12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17** This is my command: Love each other.

- What does it mean to accept the bread and the cup during Communion not only as Jesus’ disciples, but as his friends?

Read 1Corinthians 11:23-32

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. **27** So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. **28** Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. **29** For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. **30** That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. **31** But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. **32** Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

- Why did Paul consider it so crucial that partakers of the Lord’s Supper “examine” themselves first? To what extent do we do that today?

Wrapping Up

Imagine you are one of Jesus' disciples, reclining around a low table – a fisherman, perhaps one of the sons of Zebedee. You have been following Jesus for some time now, and often you have not been certain of what he was doing or why he was doing it. But you have witnessed some remarkable, even miraculous, things – thousands of people fed with a couple of fish and a few loaves of bread! Now Jesus is turning toward you, offering you a piece of bread he has just blessed. What could this mean? What do you feel? What do you think?

Something to Think About

If you were sitting down to what you knew to be your last meal, whom would you want sitting around the table with you?

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Closing Prayer

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. (Romans 15:5-6)