

• *The Lord's Supper*

1. Jesus has His mind on the cross

• *Thanksgiving for the bread began as a Passover meal*

• *The breaking of the bread symbolises Jesus' suffering*

• *Broken for us*

• *Eating – sharing the benefits*

• *Its purpose – thanksgiving and remembering*

• *The cup speaks symbolically of the new covenant*

• *The blood of the covenant – enables us to be in relationship with God*

2. Judas has his mind on betraying Jesus

As Jesus continues to celebrate the Passover with His disciples He now introduces what we call 'the Lord's Supper'. In this part of the story two people and a group of people each have their minds on different things.

1. **Jesus has His mind on the cross.** In just a few hours Jesus knows He will have died. He knows that in twenty-four hours He will be dead and buried. He also knows that His death upon the cross will be a ransom for many. It will be the means of salvation for all who believe in Him.

The Lord's Supper is a time for thanksgiving. At the Passover meal there was thanksgiving for the bread¹. Jesus' giving thanks is a hint to us that we are to give thanks for His dying for us.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic meal. It began as a Passover celebration, in which the families of Israel would celebrate what God had done for the nation hundreds of years before. As a nation they had been saved by the blood of the Passover lamb.

Jesus takes bread and breaks it. The breaking of the bread symbolises the suffering of Jesus¹. Of course the breaking was necessary for the bread to be given out to the disciples, but the fact that it is mentioned probably means that there is more to it than that. Jesus was 'broken' on the cross. It is not that His bones were broken – that did not happen – but He was broken in suffering. The breaking of bread speaks of the way in which each person who eats it will participate in the benefits of the cross; and it speaks of the suffering of Jesus.

The bread itself is a symbol of the body of Christ¹. Jesus will bear the sins of the world in His body on the tree. 'Do this' means 'have a symbolic meal like this; and break bread and distribute it to the believers'. Its purpose is thanksgiving (as the first part of the verse suggests) and remembering.

The cup speaks symbolically of the new covenant¹. In the new covenant God relates to His people, gives us certain promises, and offers to confirm the promise by the taking of an oath. Every covenant has to take effect in direct connection with sacrifice. There can be no covenant without 'the blood of the covenant'. It is the death of Jesus for our sins that makes it possible for us to be in relationship with God. That is the 'blood of the covenant'. The wine speaks of the blood which keeps us in covenant with God and enables us to continue in obedience and faith until God swears the covenant oath and we inherit what He is wanting to give us.

2. **Judas has his mind on betraying Jesus.** Judas is a pretender. As we have seen, he has never been a true believer but has been deliberately play-acting, pretending to be a supporter of Jesus and a believer. He was not a backslider: he was a fake disciple. It is

¹ 22:19

¹ 22:19

¹ 22:19

¹ 22:20

- A fake disciple
- A loving warning from Jesus
- Judas was not exposed by Jesus

possible to be a hypocrite in the church: a person playing a part. Judas was a personal colleague of Jesus. He saw dozens of the miracles of Jesus and heard all His sermons, but none of this brought him to faith. Judas gets a loving warning from Jesus^{□1}. Jesus lets His disciples know that one of them whose hand is on the table eating a meal with Him is about to betray Him. It is a warning to Judas and yet it does not expose him. Faced with this supernatural knowledge Judas ought surely to have realised that Jesus is exactly who He says He is, God's Messiah and Saviour. To disown Him and side with His enemies will be terrible evidence of unbelief.

□1 22:21

- Judas does not defeat the plan of God

Judas does not defeat the plan of God. Jesus will die according to God's plan, but the one who deliberately betrays Him will face terrible judgement. Human responsibility and God's sovereignty are present at the same time^{□1}. God uses Judas to get the divine will done, but Judas is still willingly sinning. And Judas has no chance of defeating God. Judas will not get his will done; he will be used in getting God's will done.

□1 22:22

- Judas betrayed himself

We note that Judas is not exposed by Jesus. The other disciples do not know who He is referring to^{□1}. Judas betrayed Jesus, but Jesus never betrayed Judas. Judas betrayed himself.

□1 22:23

3. The disciples have their minds on earthly greatness

3. **The disciples have their minds on earthly greatness**^{□1}. Luke places the dispute about lordship at this point. The other gospels have it in a different position – perhaps it happened twice. More likely this dispute was continuing all the time. The disciples are interested in earthly greatness^{□2}. Jesus does not criticise that. It is good to want to be great in serving God, but there is a right and a wrong kind of ambition. There is ambition for worldly greatness^{□3}, which the disciples are not to want to have. They must be a contrast^{□4}. They must be concerned about ministering to others as Jesus Himself is. Their reward will come in due course^{□5}.

□1 22:24-30

□2 22:24

□3 22:25

□4 22:26-27

□5 22:28-30

- A dispute about greatness

- Ambition – two kinds

- Judas - wicked

- The disciples - immature

- Jesus - faithful

Different things were all happening at the same time. Judas was showing his wickedness. The disciples were showing their immaturity. But Jesus had His mind on the cross and His going there to be a Saviour for us. At the time when some were being wicked and others were showing immaturity, Jesus was showing faithfulness. The foolishness of others did not stop Him. Jesus was determined to be the Saviour of the world.



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