

The Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:17-35

by Don Falkos

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Jesus told his disciples to go into Jerusalem to a certain man and tell him, "The teacher says: My appointed time is near. I and my disciples will celebrate the Passover at your house." The disciples did as Jesus had told them and prepared the Passover meal.

In the evening, Jesus took his place at the table with his apostles. While they were eating he said, "One of you is about to betray me."

The apostles were dismayed. Each of them asked, "It isn't me, is it?"

Jesus said, "It is one of you; one who has eaten from the same bowl with me. The Son of Man is heading down a path that has long since been established. But woe to that man who betrays him. It would be better for him if he had never been born."

Then Judas asked, "Teacher, it isn't me, is it?"

And Jesus said, "Yes, it is."

Later, Jesus took bread and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body."

Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God. He gave it to them, saying, "This is my blood, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins, establishing a new covenant."

They sang a hymn and then went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus said to his disciples, "You are all going to desert me. But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

Peter objected, "Everyone else might desert you, but I won't."

Jesus replied, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you even know me."

Peter was emphatic, "Even if I have to die, I will never deny you." And all the other disciples said the same.