

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS**  
**Commentary by Michael Sigler**  
**March 24, 2013**

**The Lord's Supper**

Read Luke 22:14-30

**Key verse:** “And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me’” (Luke 22:19).

Comparison with the other Gospels suggests that Luke did not intend to present these events in strict chronological order. Instead, he presents the most important event first, that is the institution of the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion (Luke 22:14-20). Next, Luke mentions briefly Jesus' words about his betrayal (vv. 21-23), then tells about the argument over who would be the greatest (vv. 24-30).

*The Lords Supper (vv. 14-20)*

Jesus told his disciples: “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God” (v. 14).

Jesus eagerly desired to share this Passover meal with his friends, knowing that he would soon be killed as God's perfect Passover lamb. By this sacrifice, Jesus would become the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. This would be the last holy meal that Jesus would share with his disciples until the day when he feasts with all of his followers in the great “wedding feast” (Rev. 19:9).

So, every time we celebrate Holy Communion, we are looking back to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and all that it means now for our salvation. And we are looking forward in anticipation of the day when we fellowship with our Lord in his eternal kingdom!

*The Betrayal (vv. 21-23)*

Jesus said: “But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table” (v. 21). Although Jesus does not mention him here by name, we know that his betrayer is Judas Iscariot. (See Luke 23:47-48.)

Regarding the Lord's Supper and the betrayal, author Walter Wangerin gave this insight: “In the night when his people betrayed him—the night of

intensest enmity—the dear Lord Jesus said, ‘This is my blood of the covenant, poured out for many.’ Then! Can we comprehend the joining of two such extremes, the good, and the evil together? In the night of gravest human treachery, he gave the gift of himself. And the giving has never ceased. The Holy communion continues today.”

*Who’s the Greatest? (vv. 24-30)*

“Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest” (v. 24).

Ashleigh Brilliant offered a bit of tongue-in-cheek humor when he penned this for a postcard slogan: “All I ask of life is a constant and exaggerated sense of my own importance.”

Sadly, people continue to hurt themselves and others with our exaggerated sense of our own importance. Jesus confronted his disciples’ prideful bickering with these words: “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who execute authority over them call themselves benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves” (vv. 25-27).

The problem is the same today as in Jesus’ day—our exaggerated sense of our own importance. Our pride and ambition lead to arrogant and abusive efforts at “getting to the top.” But Jesus has given us a very different model. In his kingdom, the greatest are the ones who best serve God and other people in the name of Christ.

As we move into this Holy Week, may God fill us with *gratitude* for his great sacrifice in Christ. And may God adjust our *attitude*, where needed, that we might be servant-followers of the one who came among us “as one who serves.”

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