

Series: God's Life-Changing Truth – Part 13

Mark 14:12-26 ESV

Does Jesus Know All that Is to Come?

Thursday, April 2 at 11:00 & 7:00

Thursday of Holy Week – 2015

Good Friday at 11 & 7; Easter Sunday at 7 & 10:45 AM

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Some refer to Thursday of Holy Week as *Maundy* Thursday; that name has a direct connection to Jesus' washing of His disciple's feet (John 13) and the *mandate* given by Jesus in John 13:34. But this year – *since our focus is not on the foot washing* – we call this day Holy Thursday.

Our focus is on ♦the Passover preparation, ♦Jesus' betrayer, and ♦Jesus last will and testament.

1. **Jesus Knew the Meal Details in Advance:** ¹² And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹³ And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, ¹⁴ and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵ And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." ¹⁶ And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

- a. Jesus saw in advance: Jesus knew *precisely* that when the two disciples would enter the city, they would meet "a man carrying a jar of water." Think about how we see something; then recount that story to a friend: This happened; then this

happened. Yet Jesus – being God – saw *in advance* exactly what would happen!

- b. These preparations were made by the two disciples: "They went to Jerusalem, purchased a lamb that met the requirements of the law [*year old unblemished male*], and took this up to the Temple one hour after the evening sacrifice [*about 4:00 in the afternoon*], when all the priests were busy with the Passover sacrifices. One of them [*one of the disciples*] killed the lamb himself, its blood being caught by one of the officiating priests to be poured out at the foot of the altar. They then took the lamb to the house which had been designated by Jesus and made arrangements to have it roasted and all the other dishes of the Passover meal prepared" (Kretzmann, NT 1:241).
2. **Jesus Knew His Betrayer in Advance:** ¹⁷ And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸ And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." ¹⁹ They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" ²⁰ He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. ²¹ For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."
- a. Jesus saw in advance: Even before His betrayer followed through Jesus knew he would, so He said: "one of you **will** betray me ..." But, *even then*, Jesus wanted Judas to repent. "...in the Jewish culture of the Middle East at the time of Jesus, a shared meal connoted a level of intimacy between eaters... . In [that] sense, Judas can be accused of betraying not

just the bond of people who eat together but a bond which should have been stronger between those who celebrated a religious feast together John's gospel ... indicates that Jesus dipped his bread in the bowl and then gave it to Judas. There is a tradition that the host gave the dipped bread to an honored guest as a sign of affection [which heightens] the act of Judas' betrayal."¹

b. Woe to Jesus' betrayer:

- i. Jesus said: "... **woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!**" So did God cause Judas to betray Jesus? No! God knew it, but did not cause it. Chrysostom, an Early Church Father (349 – 407), wrote: "**Judas was not a traitor because God foresaw it, but he foresaw it because Judas would be so.**"² Dr. Kretzmann wrote that Judas "**was, by his own fault, in the power of Satan**" (NT I:242).
- ii. Jesus said: "**It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.**" Jesus said that, "**knowing what the fate of Judas would be in the other world. There is no ... alleviation or end of suffering ...**"³ Jesus used these words to describe those in hell: "... **their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.**" (Mark 9:48 ESV)

3. **Jesus Knew His Last Will and Testament in Advance:**

²² **And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take;**

¹ <http://bustedhalo.com/questionbox/does-dipping-into-the-dish-have-any-cultural-implications-in-the-judas-betrayal-story>

² <http://biblehub.com/matthew/26-24.htm>

³ Ibid.

this is my body." ²³ **And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it.** ²⁴ **And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant [new last will and testament⁴], which is poured out for many.** ²⁵ **Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."** ²⁶ **And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.**

- a. Jesus saw in advance: From the Savior promised to Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:15), ♦to the first blood-sacrifice (Gen. 3:21), ♦to the ram provided in place of Isaac (Gen. 22:13), ♦to the countless Passover lambs (Exodus 12), and ♦to John saying of Jesus: "**Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world**" (John 1:29 ESV), Jesus knew He would give His body and shed His blood *to remove our sins!*
- b. An important parallel: As the celebrating of the Passover meal pointed to Jesus' death for our sins, *so our celebrating of the Lord's Supper points to our eating of the heavenly banquet with Jesus.* By His death *Jesus provided eternal life;* by His return *Jesus will begin the full benefits of our eternal life!*

Conclusion: So Jesus knew about His final meal, His betrayer, and the excruciating pain He would endure, yet He willingly completed His mission out of †perfect obedience to the Father and out of †perfect love for all people. Therefore, trusting *in Him* and *in His finished work*, let us honor Him and His great sacrifice!

And all God's people said: **Amen!**

CONNECT WITH US → Website: BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com

Podcast: Benefit from the Bible | Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230

⁴ God's Word to the Nations (Biblion Publishing: Cleveland, 1990), 531-540.