

**The Last Teachings
of Jesus**

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The Last Teachings of Jesus

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These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

- Jesus Christ

Introduction

This book reviews the teachings of Jesus Christ to His disciples during His last days on Earth. Jesus had many important things to share with His followers as He was going to be leaving them soon to return to His Father in heaven. It was an intimate time of fellowship to give some final instructions and to share His love for them. This was an important time to bolster their faith as that faith would be greatly shaken after their leader would die by flogging and crucifixion. Jesus wanted to let them know exactly what would happen in advance so they would know He knew all things. His sheep would temporarily be scattered, but the Good Shepherd would bring them back together after His blessed resurrection.

How wonderful it is that while we are sinners Christ pleads on our behalf to the Father. He is our advocate, our intercessor, our only mediator, and our great High Priest who represents us before the Father. He earned that right when He died as the Lamb of God in place of the believer and atoned for our sins with the shedding of His precious blood. What a great Savior we have!

This teaching by Jesus in His last days was not only for His twelve disciples. It was for all who would become His disciples. We who believe and trust in Jesus Christ will greatly benefit by knowing what He shared with them. The content of this book comes from the Gospel accounts which cover His teachings from the Last Supper with His disciples to His ascension. It is His love story spoken to all of His followers right before He left this world to be seated on the right hand of His Father.

Chapter 1

The Passover Meal

We begin just before the final Passover meal was to be eaten by Jesus and His twelve disciples. This would be the last time they would eat this meal together. The Passover meal was an annual celebration of the Jews which commemorated God's deliverance of His chosen people Israel from 400 years of slavery under the kings of Egypt. The final plague of the ten that God sent against Egypt to force Pharaoh to let Israel go was that the first-born of each household in Egypt would die unless the blood of a lamb without spot or blemish was applied to its door posts on all three sides. The death angel sent by God, upon seeing the blood on the door, would pass over and not kill the first-born in that household. Those Jews who believed the warning from their prophet Moses and applied the blood to their doors saved their first-born of both people and animals. However, the Egyptians lost all their first-borns from Pharaoh down to the common servant if the blood was not applied to their door posts. Moses, by the power of God, then led Israel out of Egypt to the land God had promised them.

The blood of the slain lamb was a picture of the blood that would be shed by the Lord Jesus Christ, the sinless Lamb of God, on the cross. Those who have faith in Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection have His shed blood applied to the door posts of their hearts. The anger of the Lord will pass over Christians and they will be forgiven of their sins and inherit everlasting life and enter into the promised land of heaven after death. John the Baptist referred to Jesus as *"... the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world!"* (John 1:29)

Jesus knew that His hour had come when He had to die for our sins, leave the world, and go to the Father. Jesus loved all those the Father had given Him who were in the world. He would love them for all eternity.

The unleavened bread of the Passover meal represented several things. First, when Moses led Israel out of Egypt in haste there was not time to add leaven or yeast to the bread for it to rise. So the leaven was left out of the bread they baked to take with them on their journey. Second, leaven often symbolizes sin in the Bible. As a little leaven spreads throughout the bread, so too does sin spread throughout a person. Jesus was warning us about the evil of sin and how it can thoroughly contaminate us. Third, Jesus warned His disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees who were the Jewish religious leaders of His day. Their leaven (sin) was false teaching and hypocrisy.

How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—but to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.”

¹²*Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees. (Matt. 16:11-12)*

In the meantime, when an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together, so that they trampled one another, He began to say to His disciples first of all, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” (Luke 12:1)

It was on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread right before His death that the disciples approached Jesus and asked Him where He wanted them to prepare a place to eat the Passover meal. He told them to go into the city to a certain man and to say to him, ‘*The*

Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples."" (Matt. 26:18)

God providentially directed them to the right man and the disciples went to his house and prepared it for the Passover meal.

Jesus Christ is the bread of life.

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. (John 6:35)

We eat this bread of Jesus when we read and obey His word, the Holy Scriptures.

Chapter 2

The Lord's Supper

When the time had come to eat, Jesus told His disciples that He had a fervent desire to eat this Passover with them before His suffering to come. He said He would no longer eat of it until it was fulfilled in the kingdom of God. Jesus took bread, gave thanks and blessed it. He broke it and gave it to His disciples and told them to eat. He said that this bread is His body which would be broken for them. In a similar way, Jesus took the cup with the fruit of the vine in it and said, "This cup is the New Testament in My blood." They were to eat the bread and drink the cup in remembrance of Him.

Why were they to do this periodically? It was to help them remember the Lord's death until He returned. As believers, we should remember all the suffering the Lord went through to make the sacrifice for the forgiveness of our sins. In the last twenty four hours of His life, He was betrayed by one of His disciples, denied by one of his closest disciples, and was accused by the Jewish high priest of blasphemy when He spoke the truth about who He was. He was mocked, beaten, spit upon, forced to wear a crown of thorns, flogged, and then crucified. Yes, we must remember what the God of heaven went through because of His love for us.

We must have great respect for the Lord's Supper when eating it. We are to examine our lives to see if it is proper for us to worship the Lord this way. If we have sinned against God or someone else, we need to make things right before participating in the Lord Supper. We don't have to be perfect but we should confess our sins and make

reconciliation with others. It is a serious thing to eat of the Lord's Supper and do it in an unworthy manner.

The Lord's Supper in the New Testament corresponds with the Passover Meal of the Old Testament. The Passover Meal really pointed toward Jesus and the saving power of His shed blood. The Lord's Supper fulfills the Passover Meal. Jesus Christ is our Passover.

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. (1 Cor. 11:23-26)

Chapter 3

An Example of Servanthood

Jesus' remaining time with His disciples was short as Satan had already put in the heart of Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, to betray the Lord over to the Jewish authorities. Jesus knew the Father had given all things to Him, and that He came from God, and was going to God. He stood up from the supper, removed some of His garments, and put a towel around His waist. He then poured water into a basin and started to wash His disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel.

When Jesus came to wash the feet of Simon Peter, Peter asked Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Peter was asking Jesus why He was doing this. Jesus explained that Peter would not understand this now, but would understand it later. There are many things that we don't understand now in our lives, but when we see Jesus we will know and understand these deeper truths. Then Peter exclaimed to Jesus, "You will never wash my feet!" Why did he say this to Jesus? I believe he was saying to Jesus that he was not worthy to have Jesus wash his feet. Peter probably felt that he was the one who should be washing Jesus' feet.

Jesus firmly replied to Peter that if He didn't wash his feet Peter would have no part with Him. He was telling Peter that if He didn't wash his feet, Peter was not a true disciple of His. We must always follow Christ even though at times it seems to us not to be the best way to proceed. Jesus always knows best and it is our duty to completely follow Him or we will not be counted worthy to enter His kingdom.

Realizing his grave mistake and wanting to correct his error, Peter asks Jesus to not only wash his feet but also his hands and head, perhaps

thinking this would make him cleaner in the sight of the Lord. Jesus assured Peter that all that needed to be cleaned was his feet to be fully clean. He told Peter that the disciples were clean but not all of them. They didn't realize it at the time, but He was referring to Judas Iscariot who would betray Him.

After the Lord had finished washing the feet of His disciples, He put His garments back on and sat down to speak to them. He then asked them if they knew why He had done this to them. He said that they called Him Teacher and Lord which was which was true. If He was willing to wash their feet as their Teacher and Lord, they should be willing to wash other people's feet. He had given them an example to follow. He told them that a servant is not greater than his master and neither is the one sent greater than the one who sent him. Jesus said that if you understand these things you will be blessed if you do them. Jesus wants us to humble ourselves and serve others. A person becomes great in His kingdom by being a servant to others. The foot washing was just an example of serving others. We can serve others in a multitude of ways.

Jesus Christ is our Lord. He is greater than we are. Therefore we are to obey His commandments. If we do we will truly be happy.

Chapter 4

The Predicted Betrayal

The Lord wanted His disciples to know that He was not speaking about all of them concerning what He was about to share with them. Jesus knew those whom He had chosen to be His true followers. He told them the Scripture must be fulfilled which said, *“Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.”* (Psalm 41:9) Jesus wanted to tell them in advance about His betrayal so they would know He was the Lord when it came to pass. Only God knows the future. He told His disciples that whoever would receive them would be receiving Him. Likewise, those who receive Jesus receive the Father.

Then the disciples looked at each other and were confused as to who Jesus was referring to. Upon hearing this, the disciples became very sorrowful, and they asked Jesus if they were the betrayer. One of Jesus’ closest disciples, John, was leaning on the Lord. Peter motioned to John to ask Jesus who the betrayer was. The Lord said it was the one to whom He would give a piece of bread after dipping it. Jesus said the He, the Son of Man, would experience what had been prophesied about this matter but certain calamity would fall upon the one who betrayed Him. He then gave the bread after dipping it to Judas Iscariot. Judas asked Jesus if he was the one. Jesus replied that he had said so. Satan then entered into Judas and Jesus told Judas to go ahead and do what he had planned to do which was to betray Jesus to the Jewish religious authorities. The other disciples did not understand what Jesus was saying to Judas. Some thought that since Judas was the treasurer Jesus was telling him to go buy some things they needed for

the feast or to give something to the poor. Then Judas left to betray Jesus.

Chapter 5

Who Is a True Disciple?

After Judas left, Jesus said that now He was glorified and that God was glorified in Him. How would Jesus and His Father be glorified? The betrayal of Jesus by Judas was a terrible act of disloyalty to our Lord. God, however, turns the evil actions of men to bring goodness to His people and works out evil to bring to pass God's glorious plan. This sinful betrayal by Judas would result in Jesus Christ's death which would be necessary to pardon the sins of all believers in the blessed Son.

Jesus called His disciples little children. He was like a father to them and they were like his little children. He told them He would be with them only a little while longer. They would seek Him but where He was going they would not be able to come. He then gave them a new commandment. They were to love others as He loved them. If they would do this, then everyone would know they were His disciples.

What about you? Are you a true disciple of Jesus Christ? Do you love other people as much as Jesus loves you? We should totally devote ourselves to loving others. Jesus gave us two great commandments. We are to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. We are also to love our neighbor as ourselves. Love is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. We may have every Christian gift possible but if we don't have love we are nothing!

Chapter 6

Peter's Denial Foretold

Peter was disturbed when Jesus said He was going to a place that they could not go. Peter asked Jesus where He was going. The Lord's response was that He was going to a place where Peter could not follow Him. However, He told Peter that he would follow Jesus there later. Peter asked Jesus why he couldn't follow Him. He assured Jesus that he would be willing to die for Him.

Then Jesus told his disciples that all of them would be made to stumble that night because of Him. He quoted Scripture that said, *"I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."* (Matt. 26:31). Jesus went on to say that after He had been raised He would meet them in Galilee.

Peter answered Him saying that even if all others stumbled over Him, He would never stumble. Jesus told Peter that Peter would deny Him three times before the rooster crowed that very next morning. Peter responded that even if he had to die he would not deny the Lord. All the disciples said the same, yet Peter would deny Jesus and the disciples would run away as the Lord predicted. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

Chapter 7

The Only Way to the Father

Jesus told His disciples not to be troubled in their hearts over what they were hearing from Him. He comforted them by telling them that in His Father's house were many mansions. He was soon leaving them but was going to prepare a special place for them in heaven. Jesus is also preparing a place for all of His followers to reside in heaven with Him for all eternity. He will not forget one of His followers; they are all very special to Him as He loves them dearly. Jesus said that if He went to prepare a place for them, He will certainly come back for them so that they would be together with Him for all eternity. He also told them that they knew where He was going and they also knew the way there.

Jesus' disciple Thomas spoke up and said to the Lord that they did not know where He was going so how could they know the way to get there?

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

There is only one Way to heaven to be with God. That one and only Way is Jesus Christ and Him alone. Many will seek their way to the Father by trying to do good works, belonging to a certain church, religion, or trying to be good people. They think that if their good works outweigh their bad works, they will get to heaven. However, the Bible says that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. It also says that there is none righteous, no not one. Trying to get to

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