



Dining With Jesus: Lessons from the Upper Room (John 13-17)

Introduction: John 13-17 = The Upper Room Discourse — Jesus' Farewell Address

Regarding the Feast of Passover

John 13:1-3 “Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.”

During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God...”

Luke 22:15 And He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

I. The Upper Room Participants

A. Jesus: The Host

Matthew 26:17-19 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?” And He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, “My time is near; I am to keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.”’ The disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

Theme of the Gospel of John

John 20:30-31 “Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

JESUS: THE GREAT I AM

“I AM the bread of life” (John 6:35)

“I AM the light of the world” (John 8:12; 9:5)

“I AM the door of the sheep” (John 10:7)

“I AM the good shepherd” (John 10:11)

“I AM the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25)

“I AM the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6)

“I AM the True Vine” (John 15:1)

John 13-17 is about Jesus, the Lamb of God

B. Judas Iscariot: The Tragic Guest of Honor

1 Cor. 11:23 “...the night in which Jesus was betrayed...”

C. Simon Peter: The Boastful Fool

D. Other Apostles: The Weakling Disciples

Matthew 10:1-5 “Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him.” (cf. Mk. 3:14; 6:7; Lk. 6:13-14; 9:1; Acts 1:13)

E. The Apostle John: The Youngest and the Bravest of the Twelve

II. The Upper Room Atmosphere

A. The Physical Atmosphere

- We know it was a “large upper room” (Mk. 14:15)
- We know the participants were all reclining at a LOW table typical of the day, laying on their left sides so they could eat with the right hand
- We know that John and Judas were next to Jesus at the table.
- We also know it was a Passover Feast (Seder) The gospels only mention two of the typical Passover meal items—the unleavened bread and just one of the four cups.

1. The Unleavened Bread

The bread in the typical Seder Feast was called the matzoh. It had great symbolic significance related to Jesus, who is the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

- The bread was unleavened — representing the sinless lamb of God
- The bread was striped— reminding us that by His stripes we are healed
- The bread had holes in it—representing the prophecy that will look upon Him whom we have pierced.

John 6:35 “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”

2. The Cup of Redemption

- Cup #1. The Cup of Sanctification, reminding them that God had set them apart as His chosen people
- Cup #2. The Cup of Wrath, poured out for us. Only the Suffering Servant-Messiah (Isaiah 53) could do that for us.
- Cup #3. The Cup of Blessing, Salvation, and Redemption—the cup Jesus lifted in the Last Supper.
- Cup #4. The Cup of Expectation that looks to the coming of the Messiah (Jesus said he would not drink of this cup until He ushered in His kingdom).

B. The Emotional Atmosphere

1. The Upper Room was full of fighting

The disciples were arguing over who among them would be the greatest in Christ’s Kingdom.

2. The Upper Room was full of surprises

Jesus, knowing fully well all the prescribed traditions for the Passover shocks His disciples by bringing new significance to these old traditions.

3. The Upper Room was full of betrayal

“You will all fall away because of this night.” Matthew 26:31

“Is it me, Lord?” (Mt. 26:20 ff.). Even Judas would say, “Surely, not I, Lord?” (Mt. 26:22, 25)

4. The Upper Room was full of sadness

“The Passover is coming and the Son of Man is to be handed over for crucifixion.” (Matthew 26:2) — “My time is near...” (Matthew 26:18). Jesus needs to prepare their sad hearts: John 14:1 “Let not your heart be troubled...”

C. The Spiritual Atmosphere

It is not all “doom and gloom in the room.” The good news: The Upper Room was full of Jesus!

III. The Upper Room Lessons

“Lord, I need to hear from You about that...”

IV. The Upper Room Invitation

*You are all invited to dine with Me in the Upper Room. Come as you are. Please bring to the table a teachable heart.
Love, Jesus*

The Upper Room Reading Challenge

Read John 13 five times in Month #1 (September)

Read John 14 five times in Month #2 (October)

Read John 15 five times in Month #3 (November)

Read John 16 five times in Month #4 (December)

Read John 17 five times in Month #5 (January)

“Lord Jesus, I accept your invitation. Open my heart to learn these Lessons from the Upper Room.”

Discussion Questions:

1. Read John 13-17 at least once at the beginning of the series.
2. What portion is a highlight for you? Why?
3. Which portion is most difficult for you to understand?
(Feel free to send your questions to the CBC Pastoral Teaching Team. We will do our best to cover that question when we are teaching that portion of John 13-17)
4. What do you need to do to prepare your heart to learn these “Lessons from the Upper Room” ?
5. Will you take on the Upper Room Reading Challenge?
 - Read John 13 five times in Month #1 (September)
 - Read John 14 five times in Month #2 (October)
 - Read John 15 five times in Month #3 (November)
 - Read John 16 five times in Month #4 (December)
 - Read John 17 five times in Month #5 (January)