



# Passover with His Disciples

Matthew 26:17-25; Mark 14:12-21;  
Luke 22:7-30; John 13:1-30

Sun

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thur

Fri

Sat





# Wednesday: A “Silent” Day

- There seems to be nothing recorded concerning this day; Jesus was probably in Bethany with the Twelve, enjoying the protection afforded Him there by His host, Lazarus.
- The day was perhaps given to preparing for the feast to come on the following day, instructing His disciples, preparing Himself for the ordeal soon to come, and giving the nation time to consider the challenge He had set before them early in the week.



**It is Now Thursday Afternoon**

**Preparation is made for the  
Passover meal, to be held at a  
previously secured room.**

**Turn to  
Luke 22:7-13**



# **There is Much Debate...**

**As to whether the meal eaten by Jesus and His disciples was the Passover meal, or a ceremonial meal eaten in connection with the preparation for the Passover.**

**It is my conviction that it was the Passover meal, and that it was eaten on the day that was, for Jesus and the 12, the appropriate day to partake of that meal.**



# The Mosaic Law Said

That the Passover be eaten indoors  
after the sun went down on Nisan 14.

I am persuaded that there were two  
nights of Passover slaying in Jesus'  
day – the first for non-Judean Jews,  
and the following day for Judeans  
(Harold Hoehner, *Chronological  
Aspects of the Life of Christ*, 85-90).



# Some Questions

1. Why did Jesus use the cryptic reference to “a man carrying a pitcher of water” to direct Peter & John to the house?
  - There seems to be very deliberate purpose in this.
2. What would have happened had Jesus been open about the place where they were to make ready for the Feast?



# David Smith, *The Days of His Flesh*

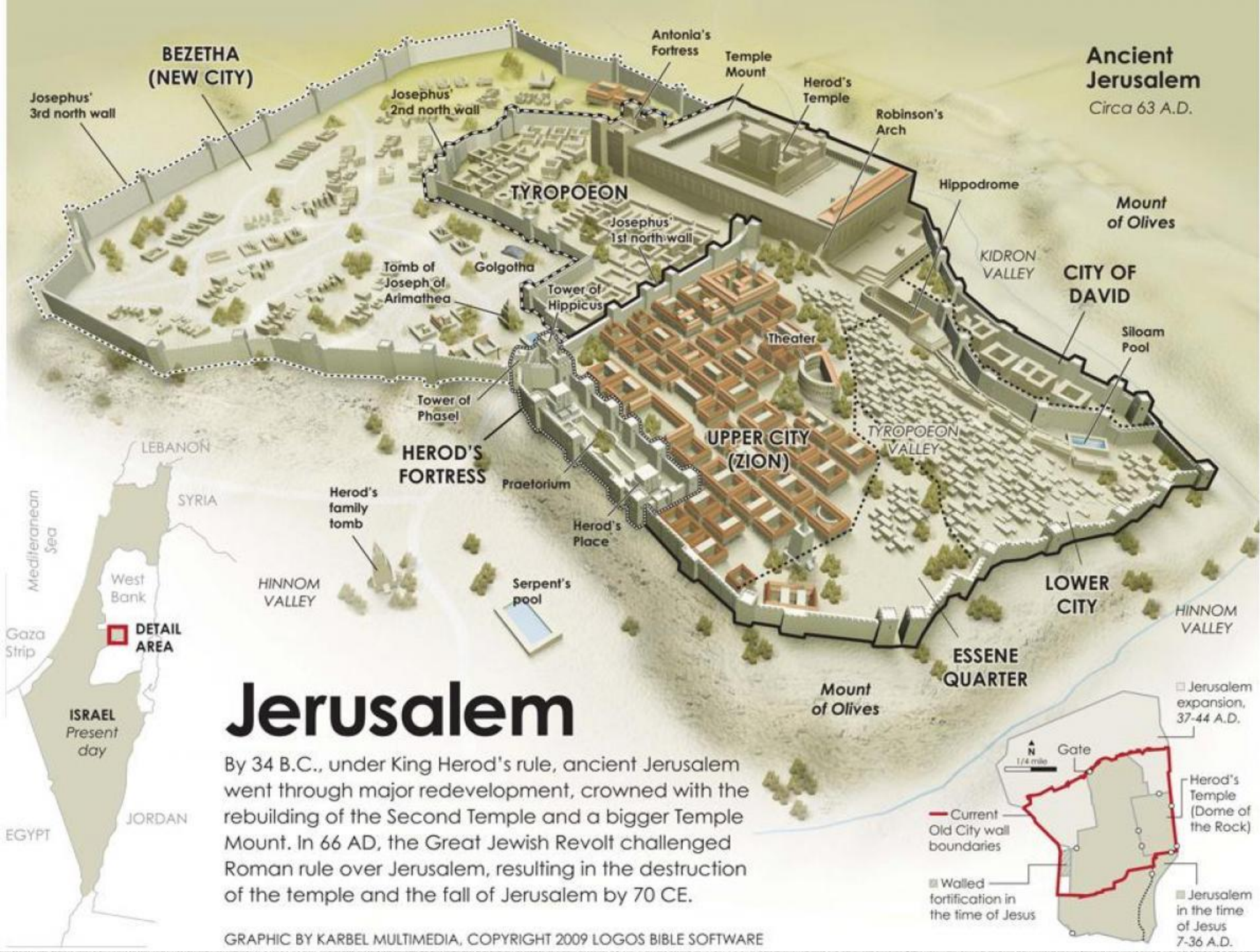
“Jesus might have named the house to His disciples, but, cognizant of the traitor’s purpose, He would not have Judas know the place, lest he should reveal it to the rulers and bring them in upon Him in the midst of the Supper. He would fain eat that Passover with His disciples ere He suffered and commune with them undisturbed; and therefore He had lain a plan with His host...Since drawing water was a woman’s office, a man carrying a pitcher would be sufficiently noticeable; and, since he was evidently one of their host’s slaves, he would be known to the disciples. The direction afforded Judas no clue, and he durst not track the messengers.”



**Let's Consider**

**The Possible  
Location of the  
Passover Meal.**







# Thursday Evening

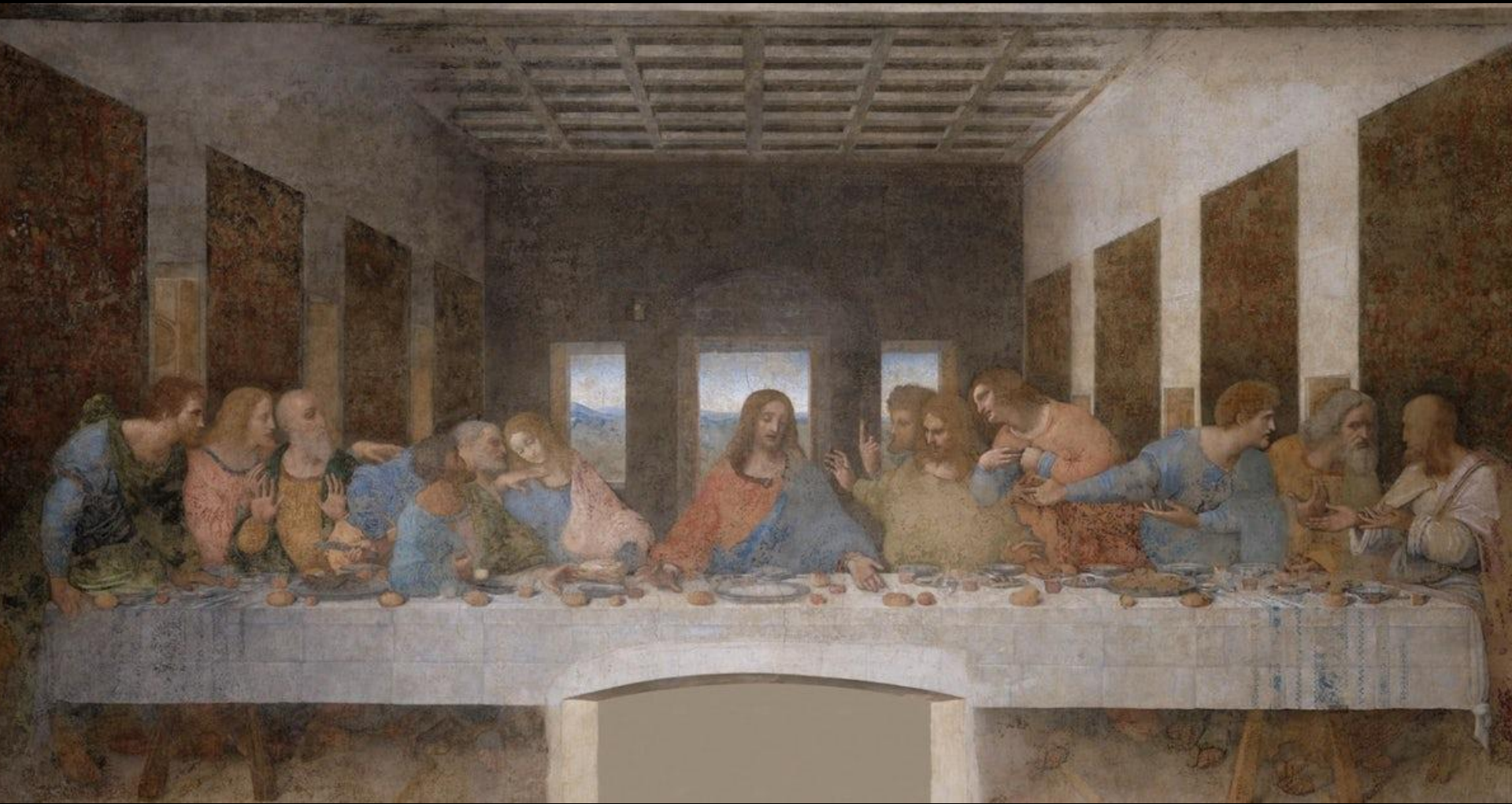
This is a very important night in the Passion Week; the four Gospels give us a rather complete description of this night's activities and teachings, but once again it is necessary to piece together the accounts from the four Gospels to gain the fullest possible account of this night.



## **The Passover Meal**

**Jesus is anxious to have this time to prepare the disciples for the awful events soon to occur, events for which they are entirely unprepared.**









ZACHARIA BROS.  
BETHLEHEM



# Understand the Culture

- At a meal such as this, the guests would lay on their left side facing the inside, leaving their right hand free to eat the meal.
- Their legs would be towards the outside, allowing a servant to wash their feet as they ate the feast, similar to when Jesus' feet were washed by the penitent woman in Luke 7.



## **G. Christian Weiss,** ***Insights into Bible Times and Customs***

“At times of special...ceremony, a triclinium table might be used. This is a table with combined couches around 3 sides...U-shaped so that food can be served from the open center. Each guest eats while reclining on a couch, with the upper part of the body resting on the left arm, the head raised, and the legs and feet stretched out behind him. Cushions are always provided to be placed behind the back for added comfort. With all diners in this same position, it means that the head of the second guest is opposite the breast of the first, so that if he desires to speak secretly to him he may simply lean back on his breast and speak in a whisper. Or, as a token of affection, one may actually rest his head on the other's bosom - not an uncommon act in the East.”



# Seating Arrangements

- The host of the feast would not sit in the middle, as is often depicted in artwork of the Last Supper, but instead second to the left, with the guest of honor on his left, and a trusted friend to his right.
- The seating then continued around the triclinium, the most important guests seated on the left, then going around the table, with the least important sitting on the far right.
- The servant, if seated at the table, would occupy the last position, closest to the door, so they could go and obtain more food as the evening progressed.



Judas

Jesus

John

Peter





# Exhibit A

As they gather in the upper room, doubtless anticipating that kingdom assignments were about to be made:

**Luke 22:24 – “And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest.”**

- This was not the first time this dispute had arisen among the disciples –
  - **Luke 9:46-48**
  - **Mark 10:35-45**



## Alfred Edersheim:

“the Supper began with a ‘contention among them, which of them should be accounted to be greatest.’ We can have no doubt that its occasion was the order in which they should occupy places at the table. We know that this was a subject of contention among the Pharisees, and that they claimed to be seated according to their rank. A similar feeling now appeared, alas!, in the circle of the disciples and at the Last Supper of the Lord.”



## **Compare Matthew 19:28**

**And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**



# **This Dispute Among Disciples**

**Points out very graphically the total absence of any understanding on the part of the disciples of that which was soon to occur in the ministry of Jesus; they are still anticipating the soon establishment of His Kingdom, even as He is preparing for the awful ordeal of death which He was to suffer within a matter of hours.**



# Jesus' Response: Luke 22:25-30

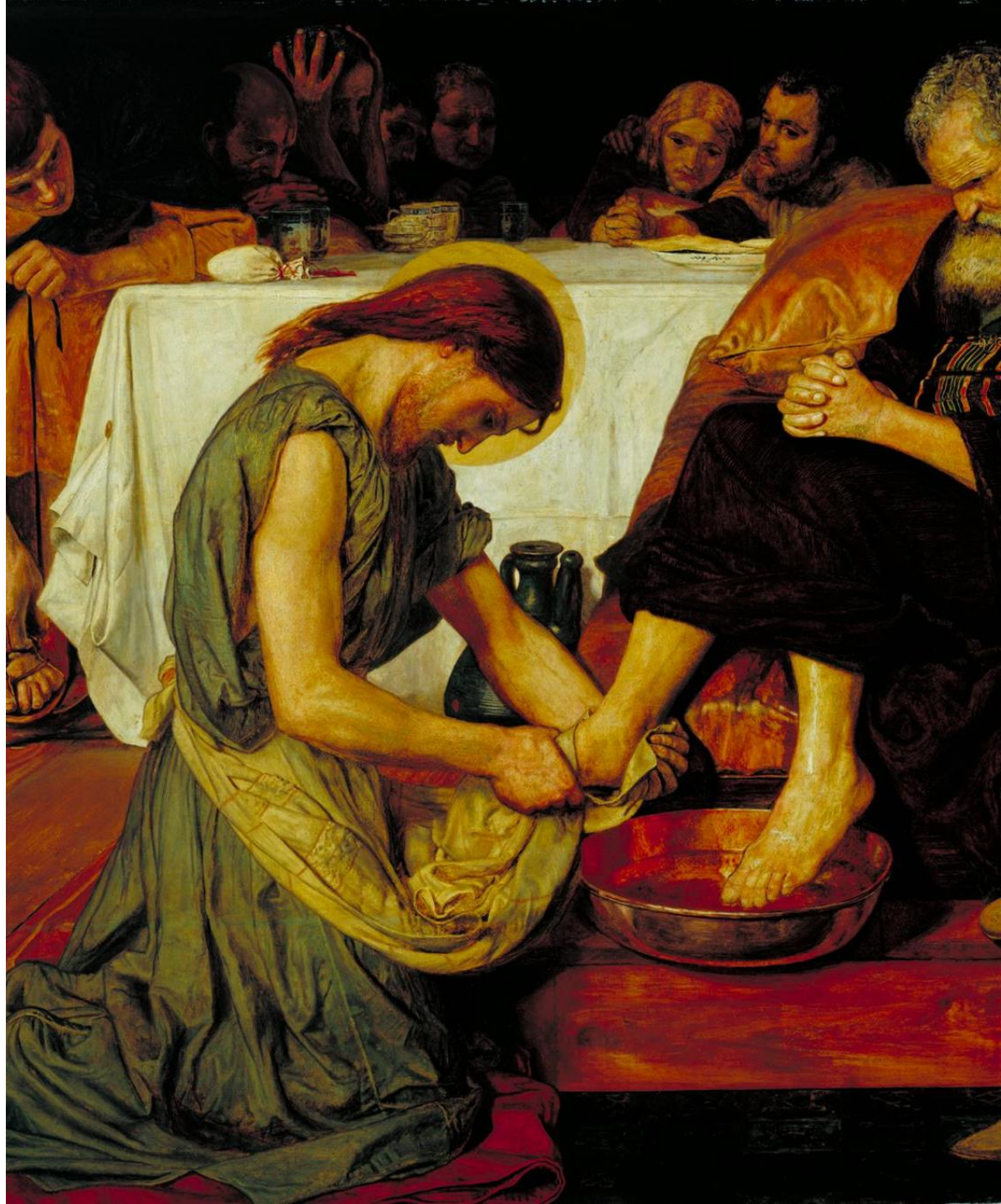
**25** And He said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called ‘Benefactors.’ **26** But it is not this way with you, but the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant. **27** For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves. **28** “You are those who have stood by Me in My trials; **29** and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you **30** that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.



# During the Meal

Jesus  
Washes  
The  
Disciples'  
Feet.

John  
13:1-20





# Foot Washing

- A common custom of the day – it was performed by a servant in the host's home, for the sake of those who had traveled over the dusty roads of Palestine; it was for the purpose of cleansing and refreshing.
- This particular act of foot washing was remarkable on two counts.



## **It is Remarkable Because:**

- 1. It was done after the guests had arrived and taken their places at the table; usually it was done as the guests entered the room.**
- 2. It was done by the master and honored participant of the feast; usually it was done by one of the lowliest of the servants.**



# **An Important Lesson**

**This was the place in the feast where the master of the feast was expected to explain the significance of the Passover; many have suggested that in this act of foot-washing Jesus was indeed explaining in dramatic action the real significance of the Passover, that what the Lord demanded was simple trusting obedience, and that the spirit of pride which exalted oneself had no place in the one who claimed to be a follower and servant of the Lord and His Christ.**



## John 13:21

When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.”

Why is this significant?



# Remember:

Remember that this occurred on Thursday night; it was on Tuesday evening that Judas had sought out the Sanhedrinists and arranged to betray Jesus to them at a time when He could be arrested apart from the multitudes. The act of betrayal had already taken place; the culmination of betrayal would occur several hours later, in the Garden of Gethsemane.



# The Disciples' Reaction

- John 13:22 –

“The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking.”

This reaction is instructive in many ways.



# It is Instructive...

1. With reference to the effectiveness of the charade being played out by Judas.
2. With reference to the treatment of Judas by Jesus; there was nothing in the way which Jesus had acted toward Judas which might suggest to the other disciples that it was Judas who would be the betrayer.
3. With reference to the immaturity of the disciples, who all began to wonder, “Surely not I?” (Mark 14:19).



## John 13:23-26 – Peter Beckons

**23** There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. **24** So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking." **25** He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" **26** Jesus then answered, "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him." So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.



# John 13:27-30 – Judas Dismissed

**27** After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly.” **28** Now no one of those reclining at the table knew for what purpose He had said this to him. **29** For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, “Buy the things we have need of for the feast”; or else, that he should give something to the poor. **30** So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night.



# Some Questions Arise

1. Concerning the phrase, “There was reclining on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.”
2. What is the “morsel” and what is its significance here?
3. Why does Jesus command Judas, “What you do, do quickly”?
4. Why did the other disciples let Judas depart?



**A Final Question Tonight**

**Did Judas Depart  
the Upper Room  
before the  
Institution of the  
Lord's Supper?**



# Judas' Departure in the Gospels

1. **Matthew** – says nothing of Judas' departure, does record the question & answer (26:25), has the Lord's Supper after that
2. **John** – explicit that Judas departed immediately after receiving the morsel from Jesus, but says nothing about the Lord's Supper
3. **Mark & Luke** – never refer to Judas in their upper room narratives (save Jesus' warning that the betrayer was at the table)



# **The Obvious Difficulty**

**Luke's narrative: in 22:19-20, he seems to be narrating the ceremony which Jesus unexpectedly initiated after the Passover (i.e., the "Lord's Supper"), and then in 22:21-23, Jesus seems to be explicit that the betrayer is still at the table.**



**Would Judas Leaving  
in the Midst of the  
Meal be Suspicious  
or Confusing?**



# Maybe...However

1. If in fact Judas was the only Judean among the 12, it would have been reasonable for him to keep the Passover with Jesus and the other apostles – he had, after all, been a part of that small fraternity since its inception – but then to hasten to his home to spend the Judean day with his kin.
2. As the morsel very possibly ended the formal meal, and as Judas very likely lived relatively close by, it would not be aberrational for him to rather hurriedly return to his own home on this very special night, once the formal meal was concluded.



## **Two Follow-Up Questions**

**Why is this  
Important?**

**What Difference  
Does it Make to  
Us?**



# A Reconstruction of Events

1. Jesus brings all 12 apostles to the upper room (Mt 26:20; Mk 14:17; Lk 22:14; implied in Jn 13:2)
2. Shortly after arrival, Jesus speaks of fervent desire to keep this Passover, and states it will be His last until the Kingdom (22:15-16); He takes 1st cup (preliminary), gives thanks (:17), then states again that this will be His final Passover until the Kingdom (:18)



# A Reconstruction of Events

3. During formal dinner, Jesus warns that the betrayer is at the table (Mt 26:21-24; Mk 14:18); in response, Judas asks if it is he & Jesus affirms (Mt 26:25)
4. As meal was concluding, Jesus washes the disciples' feet (Jn 13:1-17), then returns to the table and reiterates that the betrayer is at the table (Jn 13:21)



# A Reconstruction of Events

5. John 13:24-30 – Peter motions to John to ask who it is (:24); John is told (privately) that it is the one to whom Jesus would hand a morsel (:25-26a); Jesus hands morsel to Judas (:26b), the act of kindness is used of Satan to push Judas to complete his treachery, and Jesus instructs him to go (:27); Judas departs to fetch the waiting authorities (:30).
6. Although Jesus and the 11 had finished eating, Jesus breaks bread, gives it to 11, institutes the Lord's Supper.
  - Thus, it may be said that it was “after they had eaten” (Lk 22:20), but “while they were eating” (Mt 26:26; Mk 14:22).



