

Return of the King

Surely Not I, Rabbi?

Matthew 26:17-30

Setting

- » Judas is looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus (26:16)
- » Jesus sends the disciples to make preparations for the Passover meal

Time

- » Jesus' time is near (v18)
Time = Kairos time; the special time is near
- » Contrast between:
Judas' (world's) time and Jesus' time

I. Jesus' Predicts Betrayal

Matthew 26:20-25

Jesus announces the betrayal (v21) – he is not surprised by it

- » Jesus is in charge of his own destiny; not a victim

I. Jesus' Predicts Betrayal

The disciples dismay:
'Surely not I, Lord' (v22)

- » The disciples call Jesus 'Kyrios' (Lord)
- » They are his disciples – they follow him

I. Jesus' Predicts Betrayal

Judas does not use Kyrios but the more distant 'Rabbi' (v25)

- » See Matthew 23:7
- » A lack of commitment and intimacy
- » Judas repeats 'Rabbi' at his betrayal (26:49)

Death

- » Jesus' death leads to forgiveness – Judas' death is a tragic waste, accomplishing nothing
- » Do we call Jesus 'Lord' or 'Rabbi'?

II. The Passover Meal

Matthew 26:20-25

Jesus shares the Passover meal with his disciples (v26-30)

- » This is a fellowship meal – friends celebrating a meal together
- » Five components

1. The Action

Takes, blesses, breaks, gives to the disciples (v26)

- » Mirrors the feeding of the 5,000 (Matthew 14:19)
- » Jesus feeding his disciples (us) who are spiritually hungry

2. The Blessing

- » Not on the food itself but a prayer of thanks to the Father for his provision

3. Words over the Bread

"Take, eat; this is my body"

- » "This is my body, this is myself, I give everything to you." (Long)
- » My body = the offering of his life

An Example

Jesus as Teacher » God's wisdom & righteousness

Jesus as Healer » mercy and freedom

Jesus as Preacher » good news & hope of salvation

Jesus as Saviour » forgiveness of sin

Take/Eat

- » Respond to the gift of life
- » Come with outstretched hands
- » Willingly respond to his grace
- » Take up his cause in your life

4. Words over the Cup

Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 26:27-28

Old Testament Echoes

- I. 'Sprinkling of blood' – Moses & God sealing a relationship (Exodus 24:8)
- II. 'Poured out to death' – speaks of the Suffering servant (Isaiah 53:3,5,12)

Old Testament Echoes

- III. 'Covenant' – speaks of Jeremiah 31:31-34 – God makes a new covenant with his people – written on their hearts

The Cup

Jesus uses these three Old Testament allusions to describe his own death

- » His blood brings about an entirely new relationship with God
- » A cup we continue to drink every time we take communion (v29)

5. A Final Hymn

Usually pieces from the Hallel Psalms were sung (Psalm 113-118)

- » "Not to us but to Your name be the glory" (Psalm 115)
- » Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord (Psalm 118)
- » Directing all praise to Abba who has worked on our behalf

Conclusion

- » Passover speaks of God's goodness to us in Christ – Jesus offers everything for us so that we come into life
- » Jesus as Lord and not only Rabbi
- » A call for our commitment and response of reciprocal love