

Please!

Don't Pass That Bread To Me!

The scene of the last Passover that Jesus attended in *John 13* is an interesting one. Perhaps the most important thing to be noted for us is that this was the last time that the Old Testament Passover Feast would ever be observed. The New Testament would soon be inaugurated and with it a new meal would be observed until the "*restoration of all things*"¹ takes place – the Lord's Supper where the Lamb of God would be remembered for His sacrificial death on behalf of all men. There are other matters which make the *John 13* scene interesting.

On the one hand it was the Lord's last opportunity before His crucifixion to have a close, intimate fellowship with His twelve chosen Apostles while on the other hand, it was the last time that these special Apostles of the Lord, as a group, would ever be gathered together around a meal over which Jesus presided. Judas would not be eating with them ever again.

Jesus had just taught the Twelve an important truth by His washing "*the disciples' feet.*" It was both an audio and a visual lesson. He said, "*Do you know what I have done to you? If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an*

example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him." The Master of the Twelve had shown Himself to be the Servant of the Twelve. Jesus taught them the meaning of servant-hood, not a ritual to be taken as a church ordinance.

One can only wonder what was going through the depraved mind of Judas as his feet were being washed by the One that he was about to betray. We do not have to guess what was going through the Divine mind of Christ for it is written in *John 13:21*, "*When Jesus had said these things* – when Jesus had said what He said about the master and servant relationship – *He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me.'*" It was Judas, of course, but no one else knew what Jesus knew. "*...the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.*"

The reaction of the Apostles to what Jesus said is almost comical. "*...the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke.*" Who could it be? Surely, not me! Although he badly wanted to know who the betrayer was, Peter, for some reason, didn't ask Jesus who it was. Perhaps he was afraid that the Lord would say

¹ *Acts 3:21*

"Thou art the man!" for the Lord had addressed him as "*Satan*" earlier in His ministry² and shortly will tell him that "*Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.*"³ And before the night is over, Peter will deny Christ three times. Underneath all that braggadocio Peter knew what was in him and what was not.

Peter put John up "*to ask*" for further information. He "*motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke.*" Peter's mouth often got him into trouble, but it would not be this time. Through some kind of motioning, maybe a waving of the hand or a movement of his eyes or a nod of his head, he made it known to John that he wanted to know who the man was who would "*betray*" the Christ. John followed Peter's lead. "*Lord, who is it?*"

"Jesus answered, 'It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.'" If I had been sitting at that table I would have stopped eating and would have glued my eyes on Jesus' hand and the bread. I don't know how long it took after His pronouncement before Jesus "*dipped the bread*" but when He did, "*He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.*" It was then that "*Satan entered him*" and "*Jesus said to him, 'What you do, do quickly.'*"

It is almost incomprehensible that "*...no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him.*" How plain and simple did the Lord have to make it? We can hardly imagine the frustration our Lord must have had in teaching and training

these Twelve men. But, before we throw a stone at the Twelve, we need to look in a mirror at ourselves and consider the frustration that He has had in teaching and training us.

It is written that Judas, "*having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.*"⁴ This was an enactment of *John 3:19*. "*And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*" Christ, the "*light of the world,*" had "*come into the world*" but Judas "*loved darkness rather than light.*" The deed that he was about to do would be "*evil.*"

Please! Don't pass that bread to me! I don't want the kind of bread that was given to Judas – the bread of betrayal. To take and eat of that bread is to take and eat damnation.

We come to the Table of our Lord Jesus where "*bread*" and "*the cup*" are offered. The "*bread*" on this Table is the "*body*" of Christ that was "*given*" to God for us. The "*cup*" on this Table is the "*blood*" of Christ that was "*shed*" for us. I want that "*bread*" and I want that "*cup.*" I need that "*bread*" and I need that "*cup.*" Satan wants to enter my life as much as he gained entrance into the life of Judas. The "*bread*" and the "*cup*" are not like pills or injections of medicine that insure my immunity from sickness but they are a weekly reminder of a sickness that could kill me for all eternity – the sickness of sin, the sickness of the "*sin that dwells in me.*"

² *Matthew 16:23*

³ *Luke 22:31*

The Gospel Defender Ministries
Post Office Box 575
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601-0575

www.gospel-defender.org

⁴ *John 13:30*

It is a sickness that dwells in every person and the only "cure" is to be in, and under, and covered with the righteousness of Christ. This Table is a weekly reminder of this fact.

*"Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night." Let us drink the "cup" and eat the "bread" in this assembly of Christ's body and go out and walk in the "light" refusing to eat the bread that is offered by the world and the god of this world for we "...are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness."*⁵

Prayer

Our gracious God and Father, in the name of Jesus we approach your magnificent and majestic throne of grace. We are about to eat the "loaf" and drink the "cup" that has been eaten and drunk down through the ages since your only begotten Son established His church. We pray that you will keep us from betraying our Lord Who freely gave His blood for our sake. We pray that you will keep us from ever accepting the bread of betrayal that is offered to us by the devil who wants to separate us from the fellowship that we have with "one another" and "with Him."⁶ We thank you for hearing our supplication that is asked in the name of Jesus, the Christ.

⁵ *1 Thessalonians 5:5*

⁶ *1 John 1:5 - 7*