

A Study of Mark – Lesson 40

Mark 14:17-31 Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

¹⁴ ¹⁷ When evening came, / Jesus arrived with the Twelve. / ¹⁸
While they were reclining at the table eating, / he said, / “Truly I
tell you, / one of you will betray me/ —one who is eating with
me.”

¹⁹ They were saddened, / and one by one they said to him, / “Surely
you don’t mean me?”

²⁰ “It is one of the Twelve,” / he replied, / “one who dips bread
into the bowl with me. / ²¹ The Son of Man will go / just as it is
written about him. / But woe to that man / who betrays the Son of
Man! / It would be better for him / if he had not been born.”

²² While they were eating, / Jesus took bread, / and when he had
given thanks, / he broke it / and gave it to his disciples, / saying, /
“Take it; / this is my body.”

²³ Then he took a cup, / and when he had given thanks, / he gave it
to them, / and they all drank from it.

²⁴ “This is my blood of the covenant, / which is poured out for
many,” / he said to them. / ²⁵ “Truly I tell you, / I will not drink
again / from the fruit of the vine / until that day when I drink it
new / in the kingdom of God.”

²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, / they went out to the Mount of
Olives.

²⁷ “You will all fall away,” / Jesus told them, / “for it is written:

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“I will strike the shepherd, / and the sheep will be scattered.’

²⁸ But after I have risen, / I will go ahead of you / into Galilee.”

²⁹ Peter declared, / “Even if all fall away, / I will not.”

³⁰ “Truly I tell you,” / Jesus answered, / “today/ —yes, tonight / —
before the rooster crows twice / you / yourself / will disown me
three times.”

³¹ But Peter insisted emphatically, / “Even if I have to die with
you, / I will never disown you.” / And all the others said the same.

Vocabulary

1. **Woe:** Used as a threat to indicate that somebody is going to regret something or be punished in some way. Distress, Sadness, Grief.
2. **Rooster:** Male chicken
3. **Disown:** Deny all relationship. Reject.
4. **Emphatically:** Forcefully
5. **Covenant:** Contract. Solemn agreement. Mutual promise of God and the Israelites.

Questions

1. What did Jesus mean when he said, “This is the blood of my covenant?”
2. Why do we call this ‘The Lord’s Supper’ or ‘communion’?
3. How do the bread and the wine symbolize the sacrifice of Jesus?

4. Why didn't the disciples see who 'dips bread in the bowl with me'?
5. The Gospel of Mark is written from the point of view of Peter. Why do you think Peter told this story on himself?

Notes

1. Jesus knew that he would be betrayed that night, yet he went on. The prophecy says, in Psalm 41:9, *Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.*
2. Communion is one of the sacred rites of the church. In the Baptist church we serve communion to believers only. It is done on the honor system; no one checks. Also, the bread is passed first, then the 'wine' or grape juice. Generally, we do this once a quarter or more often if someone requests it.
3. Judas is fully responsible before God for the betrayal of Jesus. In the book, *Dante's Inferno*, we have the legend that Judas is in the lowest and worst level of hell. We must remember that this is legend and fiction, not from the Bible.
4. Peter told the story of his actions during the time of the betrayal, capture, trial and death of Jesus. Mark gives this story and it had to have been told by Peter.
5. This meal takes place on our Thursday evening, but the Jewish day began at dusk and ended at dusk. So, for the Jews, it was already Friday. They would generally do the Ritual Passover meal on a Sabbath or Friday evening. The Sabbath lasts from Friday evening until Saturday evening, as we speak of it today.

6. The Mount of Olives is the hill facing the old city of Jerusalem. There are many tours and places for tourists to see in that area, even today.

7. Jesus faced in Jerusalem:

- The opposition of the Orthodox Religious people
- Opposition, Misunderstanding of the mobs
- Betrayal by one of the disciples, his own friend
- Pain of the cross and his death
- Failure of his friends and disciples in the last hours

Yet he faced all of that with great bravery and fortitude.



Reclining at the table to eat.



Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper"