

Remembering

Mark 14:12-21

The Passover meal hangs over the Passion Week of Christ. Passover memorializes the 10th plague when death passed over the homes that had the blood of a lamb on the doorframe. It reminds the Hebrew people that they were only saved through obedience and grace. The person mentioned here would have been wealthy, mainly indicated by having an upper room. Also, typically women carried the water, but here a man does. Jesus likely planned this in advance.

The topic of money and wealth has come up a lot since Jesus entered Jerusalem. Here a seeming wealthy family served Jesus and provided the space for him. How does someone today use their wealth to serve Christ? Think past just giving to the church or charities.

At the Passover feast Jesus reveals he will be betrayed. They are all concerned. What does it mean that each of them thinks they might have what it takes to betray Jesus? Even someone who is close enough to dip the bread in the dish.

Beyond the talent of Michelangelo, he was among the first to envision the last supper with Judas on the same side of the table as Jesus. How would Judas have felt? What would have to be inside Judas for him to sit through this meal? How are Judas and Pharaoh (from the story of the Exodus) similar in the history of salvation?

Mark 14:22-25

Jesus institutes a new memorial amid two Hebrew memorials. He is doing something different. Passover represents grace from death and Feast of Unleavened Bread represents removal of sin. Considering this, how should we view communion?

In reading this passage what about your view of communion changes? What do you think Jesus means by covenant here?

Does it surprise you that Judas was there? Why? What does that say about the way we should receive communion today.

Mark 14:26-31

Why does Jesus call out Peter here, but does not directly call out Judas before?

They have traveled back to the Mount of Olives from Jerusalem (a short walk) after the Passover. Jesus now directly tells his disciples where to meet him. What does this say about Jesus? What is he trying to show them? Would you have gotten it?

How does one go from denier of Jesus to the leader of the church? Paul has a similar experience as Peter. What does this tell us about the church?