



NG Study Guide: Mark 14:12-31 “Receive God’s forgiveness” 8.29.21

Love God + know the Bible better:

1. Read the passage cited above, and try to answer the questions below before your group meets.
2. *Leader note: Please review the brief instructions for leaders at the bottom.*

The Study

Thesis: As believers it’s really easy to see the faults of those who we are in contact with on a regular basis. We can easily see the faults in our family, our friends, the people we go to church with, our co-workers, but miraculously we rarely see any faults of our own. As we neglect to see our own faults and tend to have a hyper focus on others’ faults we start to condition our hearts to be less than desirable. Today we will discover that no matter the condition of our heart, Jesus’ sacrifice is sufficient to cover all our faults and failures.

1. Jesus’ Prediction of Betrayal (12-21)

a. The preparation of passover (12-16)

For the past three years or so Jesus and his disciples have been spending everyday, and every hour together, traveling from town to town. We see Jesus and the disciples start the celebration of passover with the killing a passover lamb... this just screams irony! The reason for the killing of a passover lamb was to cover the sins of those who offered the lamb, but Jesus is sinless, so therefore there’s no need for him to offer up a sacrifice to cover his sins. Ultimately we will see that Jesus is the Sacrifice that will be sufficient for all of our sins! Traditionally once a family offered up a lamb they would then go into their home and have a great feast, so the disciples ask Jesus where they are to celebrate the passover meal. He quickly responds with directions where they are to find a place to dine for the evening:

“And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him. Wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?” ’ Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished and prepared; there make ready for us. So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover”

Mark 14:12-16

When these two disciples are sent into this incredibly vast city to find a singular man, carrying a pitter of water, which was incredibly uncommon in this time. Because the collection of water with a pitcher was a task that the women of the city or town would go out together in the mornings to complete. So seeing a man walking around with a water pitcher in big city, on a day where thousands of people are flocking to city to celebrate this holiday, is the equivalent of walking through L.A. last year in middle of October (after the dodgers won the world series) finding a Giants fan who is wearing his Giants gear loud and proud, but whom is also excited that the dodger had won the world series. It would have been very rare,

irregular and something that you wouldn't see normally. But Jesus being God, knowing all, has confidence that the two disciples he sends out will find this man and secure His extra room for them to eat in. It's significant to note a few things in these verses that indicate a sense of secrecy into where they will be celebrating Passover that evening:

1. Jesus only sends two disciples into the city to prepare the upper room for them to dine.
2. Jesus does not give any specific location as where the upper room would be located in the city
3. Jesus gives very distinct and irregular details in regards to whom the disciples are suppose ask for an area to dine for the evening

The reason why we see this secrecy is because of the imminent betrayal from Judas, which Jesus knows is coming. We see that by ensuring the place where they will dine at for the evening is not known until they arrive is because Jesus wants to offer Judas once last opportunity to repent.

b. Judas' opportunity for repentance (17-21)

"In the evening He came with the twelve. 18 Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me. And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, "Is it I?" And another said, "Is it I?" He answered and said to them, "It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish. The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born."

Mark 14:17-21

As the evening progressed Jesus and his disciples found themselves enjoying the evening eating and lounging around. As they are sitting around this table chatting with each other Jesus says something absolutely shocking to the disciples being,

"Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray me"

Automatically all the disciples question Jesus asking him going around the table asking him, "Is it I", "Is it I". Starting in verse 20 we see Jesus' response to what I would imagine is a panicked worrisome group of disciples

"He answered and said to them, "It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish. The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born."

Verse 20-21

In a different account from this interaction in the upper room we look to John 13:26-29

"Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. 27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." 28 But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. 29 For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy those things we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor."

By dipping the bread and handing it to Judas, Jesus confirms which of the disciples will betray Him. But sure enough even after Jesus gave this bread to Judas, the disciples are still confused not knowing who is the one to betray Him. No one batted an eye at Judas, because he held the money bag he ran all of the disciples' finances so there was this high degree of trust that Judas held with the rest.

We ought to recognize here, that in Middle Eastern culture, betraying a friend after eating a meal with him was and is regarded as the worst kind of treachery... but know that in these moments as Jesus sat with his betrayer he knew Judas had to betray him to fulfill prophecy.

Jesus now knows that Judas, someone he considered as a friend sitting at this table, at the seat of honor during this celebration would betray him. Jesus knew that He would be going to the cross in a few short hours and He was going to the cross with Judas, his adversary in mind. That was the moment where the actions of Jesus spoke incredible lengths. Jesus loved Judas even to the point of death, knowing he would be betrayed.

As the weight of Jesus' first prediction of betrayal marks a turning point in the night, we then see Jesus' second prediction as He institutes communion.

2. Jesus' Promises forgiveness (22-26)

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 23 Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. 25 Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." 26 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

Verse 22-26

a. Jesus' last earthly communion (22-24)

If you have attended one of the Passover seders that we host, Pastor Bruce does an astounding job walking us through each aspect of the passover meal. PB reminds us that every single item of food that is eaten communally at the passover meal has a very specific meaning and Jesus does something against the traditional norms, but what He does here in these verses is incredibly transformative giving a new meaning to communion

Traditionally when the bread was lifted up at Passover, the head of the meal would say:

"This is the bread of affliction which our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. Let everyone who hungers come and eat; let everyone who is needy come and eat the Passover meal.

What Jesus says instead is

"Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many."

The focus of communion was no longer on the suffering of Israel in Egypt, but now the focus was now on Jesus. Specifically the focus was on the suffering of Jesus... the suffering that was to bear the weight of our sin on the cross! Circles throughout the Church for centuries have debated what the spiritual state of the bread and wine. Just like many things that Jesus does throughout the gospels we can spend hours debating back and forth about the true meaning. At times as we get caught up in all this back and forth it's rather easy to lose sight of the one thing here that is a universal statement no matter how your view lines up. And this statement is more of a command which is rather simple for us to follow. As we refer to 1 Corinthians 24-25 we read:

"and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

1 Corinthians 11:24-25

As believers we partake in communion recognizing that as Jesus hung on the cross and he shed his blood he established a new covenant between God and man! And we see this covenant for told many years prior as the Lord spoke to Jeremiah saying:

"31 Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah... 33 this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Jeremiah 31:31, 33-34

As believers we partake in communion we recognize that Jesus was hung on the cross and as He shed his blood He established a new covenant that is established for the least of us to the greatest (MEANING EVERYONE). Jesus forgives the wickedness we hide in our hearts, the evil that we walk in, the immorality that we find inescapable... We partake in communion because we recognize that we are undeserving of

the suffering Jesus experienced on our behalf! And as few partake in communion we also read about Jesus' next communion.

b. Jesus' next communion (25)

As we see the new meaning of communion established in verses 22-24 and we continue reading into verse 25 we see another prediction and a promise that Jesus has yet to fulfill!

Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Verse 25

Jesus has yet to celebrate a passover in heaven, because He is waiting for the fulfillment of kingdom of God to be established. Next time Jesus will partake of vine will be at what we see Revelation 19:9 refer to as the, "*The marriage of the Lamb*". When the union of God's people (his bride) and God come together at last there will be a great feast, knowing that all those who have come to faith will be celebrating in eternity at last. Jesus looks forward to the day that He will drink of the vine again celebrating the union between God and all of his people. As believers we also wait with incredible anticipation of this great feast knowing that our suffering, our pain, our stress and anxieties of life that we experience daily, no longer have power over us! As we get to worship together singing out 1 Corinthians 15:55:

"O Death, where is your sting?

O Hades, where is your victory?"

As we wait with anticipation for this great feast the Lord has at hand, we must daily see our need for forgiveness!

3. The necessity of forgiveness (26-31)

"And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27 Then Jesus said to them, 'All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.' 28 'But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.' 29 Peter said to Him, 'Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be.' 30 Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.' 31 But he spoke more vehemently, 'If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!' And they all said likewise."

Verses 27-31

I found it so easy to graze over verse 26, but we must stop and look at the weight His short sentence holds! As tradition of Passover, at the end of the meal one would sing a total of three hymns referred to as the "*Hallel*". The Hallel, is known to be Psalm 116, 117, and 118. In just a few short hours Jesus will be lead to the cross, and in these last moments He sung a hymn 1. Thanking the Lord for deliverance from death, 2. A hymn about all people praising the Lord and 3. A hymn praising God for his enduring mercy through the ages! As Jesus and his disciples sing of the greatness of God and sing of events and the reality of things that are about to conspire is quite amazing!

a. All will stumble (27-28)

"Then Jesus said to them, 'All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: 'I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered.' 28 'But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

Ver 27-28

All throughout the night it seems as if Jesus is trying to be a huge mood killer, as He drops yet another jaw dropping statement. Yet, this statement was not said by Jesus maliciously to tear down his disciples but rather Jesus says this statement to bring to light what was prophesied in Zechariah 13:7, explaining that the forgiveness of the Father is to be poured out for the many, the Jesus must endure the suffering of the cross.

In the NLT transitional of this passages it reads,

"On the way, Jesus told them, "All of you will desert me..."

In a matter of what would be hours from this moment when this very statement was spoken, we see that all the disciples do as Jesus foretold, that being, desert Jesus!

Jesus knew that for prophecy to be fulfilled He must suffer on the cross, but Jesus looks passed His impending suffering, and pain and chooses to focus on the joy at hand

'But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.'

Jesus knew that as He would be subject to the pain and suffering of the cross, offering the necessary sacrifice for our forgiveness... that his sacrifice would mean his resurrection and his fullness of joy as he gets to sit at the right hand of God!

b. Peters' denial predicted (29-31)

"Peter said to Him, 'Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be.' 30 Jesus said to him, 'Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.' 31 But he spoke more vehemently, "If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all said likewise."

Ver 29-31

The things that Peter says at times just makes me laugh. Truthfully, at times I think the reason why I laugh is because the misplaced pridefulness and the courage that Peter has is often the raw and unfiltered thoughts and actions of my heart.

As our circumstances change it's really interesting to note here how quickly our attitudes change. And we see that here with attitude and the heart of Peter (as well as the others) changes as the circumstance went from Jesus predicting one to betray him to the moment we read about in ver 29-31 when Jesus tells Peter he will stumble. Peter's heart in the upper room is full of meekness and humbleness and as Jesus predicts his betrayal. Then his heart is filled with misplaced pride and courage as he stand up essentially telling Jesus, "All these guys might leave you, but I'll always have your back Jesus"

As Jesus predicts the actions of Peter we read later in verses 66-72, it isn't to make Peter mad, or to dishearten him, but rather it was Jesus holding a mirror up to Peter allowing him to pause for a moment, to consider the fact that his pride and courage wasn't being placed where it should be in Jesus, but as we see Peter didn't take the opportunity to consider the condition of his heart. And in response this fire is light under Peter, and as he becomes filled with passion and even more courage he fervently pushes back against Jesus telling him, "If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And the other disciples missing the same opportunity given to Peter concurred with him.

As Peter pushes back against Jesus telling him, "If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" He and the disciples also overestimated their own strength, and relied on their pride rather than on the Lord in that critical hour. It's all too easy to look at the disciples and question them for questioning Jesus. It's all too easy to look at Peter and have some sort of disappointment as has this little rebuttal with Jesus. Just like it's all too easy to look at our spouses and see the ways that they are falling short, or look at our co-workers and be disappointed in their sin, and the list goes on and on and miraculously we rarely see any faults of our own. As we focus on others' faults we start to see their need for the Lord's forgiveness. The reality is yes others around us might need the Lord's forgiveness, but we ought to submit to the fact that more importantly we as an individual needs the Lord's forgiveness!

Study Guide Qs

Q1. What are some uncommon way(s) you've seen God work?

Q2. How can we prepare for the "Marriage of the Lamb" (the church's union with God)?

Q3. What are helpful ways to stay on a corrected path while following Jesus (how to avoid stumbling)?

Q4. Why might it be hard at times to see our need for forgiveness?

“Disciples Who Dig Deeper” (optional or alternative study)

1. Here is a helpful article regarding What Passover is:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-Passover.html>

2. Here is a helpful commentary regarding Mark ch. 14:

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/mark-14/>

3. Here is a great podcast regarding the Last Supper:

<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/messianic-passover/>

Love your neighbors (inside + outside the group) better:

1. Who would like to share how they sought to befriend or build relationships with their neighbors inside or outside the group?

2. Are there some needs that can provide us an opportunity to love our neighbors inside or outside the group?

Disciples who make disciples:

1. Who would like to share how they recently sought to make disciples?

2. Here is a disciple making idea to consider for the weeks ahead:

[Invite someone to participate in your Neighborhood Group. It is a wonderful way to be a disciple of Jesus who makes disciples.](#)

Prayer [Loving God and Neighbors better]:

Close the NG meeting with a time of group prayer. Encourage each participant to pray, but don't force anyone to pray. Encourage the group to keep their prayers brief so that each person can pray.

Leader Notes:

1. **Seek to involve as many group participants as possible.** A good group discussion time allows people to get to know the passage and one another better.

2. **Feel free to pre-select the discussion questions that you want to focus on** in case there isn't enough time to answer them all.

3. **The “Disciples Who Dig Deeper” section provides some optional or alternative study and discussion activities.** As a group leader, you can choose to focus on the “Disciples Who Dig Deeper” section, include part of that section in your group meeting, or not use it at all. Try to give the group sufficient notice so they can be prepared for the meeting.

4. **Every time you meet consider asking:**

a. **What about this passage is particularly exciting, challenging, or confusing?** If a leader is uncertain about a question of doctrine or theology don't hesitate to follow-up with your coach during the week. Then revisit the issue(s) when the group gathers next time.