

Friday, March 2, 2018

Jesus establishes the Lord's Supper

Matthew 26:26-35

Time: A.D. 30, Thursday evening

Jesus established something totally new at the Last Supper: he gave new meaning to the bread and the cup, which are visible reminders and interpretation of his coming crucifixion on the cross. Jesus left this legacy for the church to continually remind us of his sacrificial salvation, until the day he comes again.

1. When Jesus told his disciples that this bread is my body, take and eat it, what would be in the disciples' mind? After Jesus ascended to heaven, when the disciples met and ate the Lord's Supper, considering the sacrificed goat or ram when their ancestors left Egypt, what would be in the disciples' mind?
2. Jesus said he would take the new ones together with his disciples in his father's kingdom, what does this promise mean to us today?
3. Jesus foretold his disciples' stumbling, which they did, on that night. Will Jesus' promise be kept and fulfilled? What would this mean to us when we stumble?
4. Peter bragged with full confidence that he would follow his Lord to death, yet, he failed completely. Nevertheless, he became the major leader of early church. What does this mean to us?

Prayer: May we focus on Jesus' promise which will surely be fulfilled, so that we can follow him with strong faith!

Saturday, March 3, 2018

Jesus' farewell teaching to his disciples

John 14:1-31

Time: A.D. 30, Thursday evening

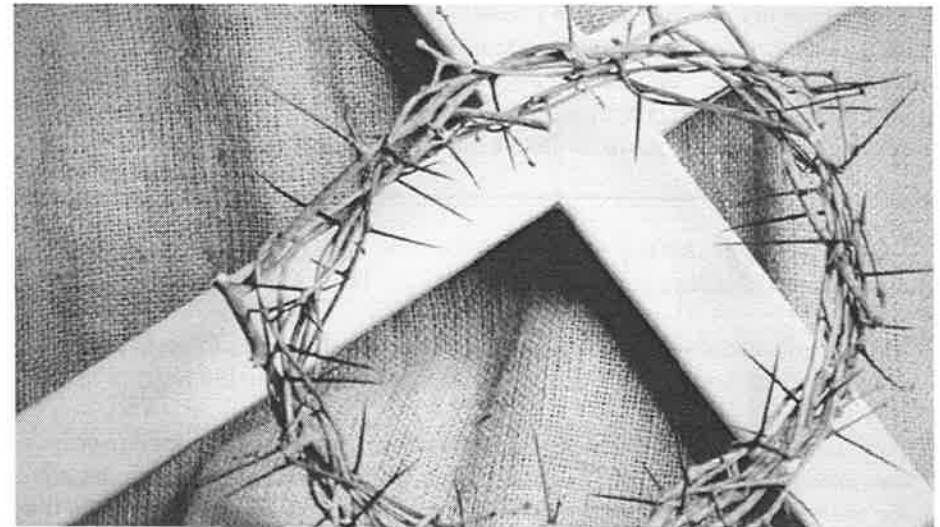
After he washed his disciples' feet (chapter 13) to demonstrate his love towards them – a love of complete humility and commitment, even to death on the cross – Jesus impressed deeply on his disciples that he will be among them when they likewise love each other. Jesus comforted his disciples (chapter 14) with the promise that the Spirit will be with them after his departure, so that they can know his love is with them.

1. What is the relationship between our worries and our faith in Jesus?
2. Are the things we do daily the works of the Father?
3. How may Christians experience the presence of Jesus in this worldly life?
4. How much do I love Jesus? Does my way of living show my love for Jesus?
5. Jesus said that the ruler of this world has no claim on me. To what extent can we make such a claim?

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for your clear instruction that we will follow your ways if we love you. May your Spirit rule our hearts and give no ground to the ruler of this world.

NYCBC – 40 Day Devotional Guide

Remember Christ Draw Near to the Cross



3rd Week

February 26 to March 3, 2018

Monday, February 26, 2018

The Final Judgment

Matthew 25:31-46

Time: A.D. 30, Tuesday p.m.

In Matthew 24, Jesus foretold what his glorious coming will be like, and provided teaching on waiting for his return. This passage lets us understand the judgment that comes with Christ's return, and the judgment's criteria.

1. What two types of people are represented by "the sheep" and "the goats"? How are their endings different?
2. What are the criteria of the judgment? Am I prepared to face this judgment? What warnings does this give me?
3. The parable of the sheep and the goats is not about "the condition for salvation". What is the emphasis of this parable?
4. What is "the condition for salvation" emphasized in Romans? The works emphasized in James are not conditions for salvation but demonstration of salvation, because faith without works is dead.
5. Likewise, what does John 3:16 emphasize? What does this passage emphasize?
6. Currently, do my faith and my works corroborate each other? Or do they contradict each other? Have my faith been put into practice in my works?

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

Matthew 26:6-13

Time: A.D. 30, Tuesday evening

1. Consider the disciples' reaction and Mary's reaction after Jesus foretold his suffering, death and resurrection. Who was more attentive to the heart of Jesus? Why so?
2. Thirty pieces of silver was the wage of an ordinary slave or servant for one year. Am I willing to spend one year's salary as a preparation to commemorate Jesus?
3. Our values determine the priority of our thoughts and actions. Upon what did the disciples' build their values? What about Mary? And me? For example, if God wants to take back the thing that you love most in life, would you be willing to surrender? Do you love God more than these?
4. The alabaster flask needs to be broken for the fragrance of the ointment to be released. Today, what alabaster flasks in my life need to be broken for Christ?
5. Have I given testimony to the offerings and sacrifices for Christ that I have encountered and heard about?

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Jesus washes the feet of his disciples

John 13:1-17

Time: A.D. 30, Thursday p.m.

Compared to other three Gospels, John recorded more of Jesus' teaching to his disciples. Chapter 13 to 17 focus on the important teachings on the evening when he was arrested. Before his teaching, Jesus first washed his disciples' feet as their Lord

and teacher, fully demonstrating his total devotion and commitment to love them. This is to encourage his disciples to understand and imitate his sacrificial love revealed on the cross.

1. Jesus' love is complete and never-ending, even to death. Jesus even washed the feet of the betraying Judas Iscariot. So no one is too bad to be spared Jesus' love. Have you ever doubted that you may not be able to partake of Jesus' love?
2. What kind of love do you have towards people around you? Is there anyone beyond your forgiveness? Did you try to love those who hurt you a lot with the kind of love just like Jesus?
3. Jesus knew he came from the Father and would go back to Him. If you were reborn in Jesus and shared his life, do you have assurance of your eternal destiny? How does this impact your attitude facing worldly challenges?
4. Have you ever served those that are 'lower' than you? How is Jesus' example changing your attitude?
5. Jesus said that those who imitate him will be blessed. Is this different from your understanding of being blessed?

Prayer: May Jesus' humble and sacrificial love encourage us to imitate him to serve with humility.

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Jesus foretold Judas' betrayal

John 13:21-30

Time: A.D. 30, Thursday evening

Jesus demonstrated his humility by washing his disciples' feet as their Lord and Master. This is in dramatic contrast to the self-centered worldly mentality. Jesus knew about Judas' betrayal, yet, Jesus showed his love towards Judas by washing his feet. Jesus lived out his teaching to encourage his disciples to follow him.

1. Why was Jesus troubled in his heart? Did that have to do with his coming crucifixion? Or about Judas' final destiny?
2. Why did Jesus solemnly proclaim that he will be betrayed by one among his disciples? How could this statement affect Judas' internal struggle, if he had any?
3. Jesus stretched out to give Judas the morsel of bread. What was this action offered to Judas?
4. "And it was night"(John 13:30) – is this just telling the time of the day?
5. Have you experienced repetitive sin against God? What would Jesus feel about those occasions?

Prayer: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me, so that we would not fall into the spiritual darkness!
