

CLINCARTHILL PARISH CHURCH - LENTEN REFLECTION 1

This week's scripture is one that we have maybe heard so often we, to our detriment, may automatically skim read. Being aware of this, read the passage deliberately slowly from verse 12 - 26 noting details, actions and words, as if for the first time. Read it a second time from the perspective of the disciples and a third time from the perspective of Judas Iscariot.

Mark 14: 12 – 26

On the first of the days of Unleavened Bread, the day they prepare the Passover sacrifice, his disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations so you can eat the Passover meal?" He directed two of his disciples,

"Go into the city. A man carrying a water jug will meet you. Follow him. Ask the owner of whichever house he enters, "The teacher wants to know, where is my guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?" He will show you a second-storey room, swept and ready. Prepare for us there."

The disciples left, came to the city, found everything, just as he had told them, and prepared for the Passover meal. After sunset he came with the Twelve. As they were at the supper table eating, Jesus said, "I have something hard but important to say to you: One of you is going to hand me over to the conspirators, one who at this moment is eating with me." Stunned, they started asking, one after another, "It isn't me, is it?" He said, "It is one of the Twelve, one who eats with me out of the same bowl. In one sense, it turns out that the Son of Man is entering into a way of treachery well-marked by the scriptures – no surprises here. In another sense, the man who turns him in, turns traitor to the Son of Man – better never to have been born than do this.

In the course of their meal, having taken and blessed the bread, he broke it and gave it to them. Then he said, "Take, this is my body." Taking the chalice, he gave it to them, thanking God, and they all drank from it. He said, "This is my blood, God's new covenant, poured out for many people. I'll not be drinking wine again until the new day when I drink it in the kingdom of God."

They sang a hymn and went directly to Mount Olives.

(The Message 100)

Reflective Thoughts

- The location of the place for sharing this Passover meal seems to have been carefully pre-arranged by Jesus, yet kept from the disciples until such times as they needed to know. Why might this be the case?
- In Luke's recount 22:15 Jesus said, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover meal with you before I suffer." Does this give us further insight into possible reasons for the unusual steps taken by Jesus in preparing for this meal?
- For the disciples the Passover was a meal in which the food was symbolic of their Jewish history and relationship with God. Jesus personalises the symbolism – This my body, this is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for many.... Ponder the possible reactions and understandings of the disciples to this personalisation.
- This somewhat unusual and emotional evening meal finishes by singing a hymn. Is there anything we can take from this?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for being willing to submit to God's will and establishing the new and everlasting covenant with us your children.