

Luke 22:14-30 (New International Version)

14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.

15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you.

18 For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

21 But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.

22 The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!"

23 They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

24 A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest.

25 Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors.

26 But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.

27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

28 You are those who have stood by me in my trials.

29 And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me,

30 so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Good Morning, my sisters and brothers in Christ. I greet you this morning in the name of Jesus the Christ. If you have been a part of Bible Study during this season of Lent; if you are a Bible Student; or just merely observant you know that today is Palm Sunday. This is day that we have set aside to remember Jesus as He rode into Jerusalem. Matthew 21 records it this way:

2 saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. **7** They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on.

8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. **9** The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"

11 The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

It was a glorious day and in my mind I can imagine the joy the Jews in the crowd felt. "Our King has come, the Messiah is here, we will soon be free and out from under Roman rule." I can imagine them talking among themselves – "I am glad I made the trip to Jerusalem and was able to witness this event." I imagine someone else said – "Look He chose to make His entrance during the Feast of Unleavened Bread", "He has come to celebrate the Passover Meal". The Jews in crowd were glad and pleased to be able to tell anyone who asked "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

That is the essence of the story that marks today. Yet we are challenged by the David C. Cook Sunday School editors to look beyond that day to later in the week when Jesus shares a meal with His disciples. If you are a serious Bible student you know that this meal with the disciples is recorded by all four of the gospel writers and Paul refers to it in his letters to the church at Corinth. Luke says it is the Passover Meal.

In my mind the fact that we are being asked to study this meal raises a few questions:

What are we to learn in the 21st century from a meal?
served in the 1st century?

Where and what is the connection between last Sunday's
lesson on Daniel's vision and the interpretation and
today?

Perhaps we are not being called to connect these events but rather to lift and compare a characteristic from each of the major participants. If you remember, on last Sunday I ask "When Do You Ask for Help?" and we looked at the actions of Daniel to gain some insight. Today I am asking us to look for just a few minutes at just two verses:

26 But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.

27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table?
But I am among you as one who serves.

Kingdom Seekers turn me on and listen to the same passage from THE MESSAGE.

24-26 *Within minutes they were bickering over who of them would end up the greatest. But Jesus intervened: "Kings like to throw their weight around and people in authority like to give themselves fancy titles. It's not going to be that way with you. Let the senior among you become like the junior; let the leader act the part of the servant."*

27-30 *"Who would you rather be: the one who eats the dinner or the one who serves the dinner? You'd rather eat and be served, right? But I've taken my place among you as the one who serves. And you've stuck with me through thick and thin. Now I confer on you the royal authority my Father conferred on me so you can eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and be strengthened as you take up responsibilities among the congregations of God's people."*

I invite you to pray with me as we consider this title:

DO YOU HAVE A SERVANT'S HEART?

SHALL WE PRAY! Most Holy God, the God who knows us and knows our hearts. We your people come into your house this morning on this day we call Palm Sunday desiring to hear what it is you have ordained for us to hear this day. God, our Father, we need a Word from you, help us to hear and be receptive to that Word. Now Lord I ask that you create in me a clean heart and a servant's heart. Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable to you. In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. AMEN. AMEN.

DO YOU HAVE A SERVANT'S HEART?

When my sisters and I were little and had made a mess of things my mother often yelled up the stairs "the servants are off today, you need to clean up for yourselves and behind yourselves". Now growing up as the children of former sharecroppers from MS on the west side of Chicago in the 50's and 60's I hope you understand that we had no servants. It was just Martha Ann's way of getting her point across.

Mama had no problems with being a servant, for she earned her living and help to support her family working as a member of the housekeeping staff of a hospital, in other words a maid. Martha Ann never desired the limelight:

- cleaned,
- worked in the kitchen,
- watched other's children at church and in her home,
- took vacation time from her paying job to cook during the Baptist Convention

DO YOU HAVE A SERVANT'S HEART?

(2nd Illustration – notes only)

College – pay you to make my bed – grew up with servants – don't know how!

In 1968 a white girl asking a black girl to make her bed, even for pay was insulting – I was not her maid.

DO YOU HAVE A SERVANT'S HEART?

Someone said, well I help out! Someone else said, I help when I can, have time, but I can't help all the time.

DO YOU HAVE A SERVANT'S HEART?

I just stopped this morning to tell you that helping is not the same as having a Servant's Heart.

A helper helps other when it is convenient
A servant serves other even when it is inconvenient

A helper helps people that he or she likes
A servant serves even people that he or she dislikes

A helper helps when he or she enjoys the work
A servant serves even when he or she dislikes the work

A helper helps when the circumstances are convenient
A servant serves even when the circumstances are inconvenient

A helper helps with a view to obtaining personal satisfaction
A servant serves even when he or she receives no personal satisfaction

A helper helps with an attitude of assisting another
A servant serves with an attitude of enabling another

DO YOU HAVE A SERVANT'S HEART?