

A Ministry of Death

Matthew 26:26-30 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; **this is my body.** **27** And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; **28** For **this is my blood of the new testament**, which is shed for many **for the remission of sins.** **29** But I say unto you, I **will not drink** henceforth of this fruit of the vine, **until that day** when I drink it new **with you in my Father's kingdom.** **30** And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

1. All of this is taking place before the crucifixion!
 - a. Jesus knew that He was about to die
 - b. He knew why He was going to die
 - c. Though He would endure great pain He knew that it would be worth it for the joy set before Him

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who **for the joy that was set before him endured** the cross, **despising** the shame, and is set

down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2. His death had a definite purpose-the remission of sins! 28

For **this is my blood of the new testament**, which is shed for many **for the remission of sins**.

- a. It has always been the shedding of blood for sin
 - i. Since Adam and Eve were covered with the skins of an animal after the garden
 - ii. Since Abel's offering of a lamb was accepted and fruits and vegetables were rejected
 - iii. Since the passover lamb
 - iv. Since the lamb that was sacrificed on the day of Pentecost
 - v. Since John saw Jesus and cried out Behold the Lamb
- b. He shed His blood for all but only many will be saved-they must see their sin and trust Him
- c. Be careful to never believe in or accept that all go to Heaven or that Jesus paid for all whether they trust or not

3. Jesus knew that death wasn't permanent 29 **But I say unto you, I will not drink** henceforth of this fruit of the vine,

until that day when I drink it new **with you in my Father's kingdom.**

- a. Notice that Jesus promises not to drink until
- b. He knows that He will overcome death
- c. He knows that His death will accomplish His purpose
- d. He knows that they will soon be with Him

4. A super sad but exciting night

- a. Jesus will soon die-that had to be hard for those that loved Him so
- b. He speaks of His body being broken and blood shed
- c. It was a finished work and He knew that
- d. He would hold the fruit of the vine until they were together again
- e. Their sins would be completely paid for!

John 11:7 Then after that saith he to *his* disciples, Let us go into Judaea again. 8 *His* disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late **sought to stone thee**; and goest thou thither again? 9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. 10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him. 11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. 12 Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. 13 Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. 14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, **Lazarus is dead.** 15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him. 16 Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellowdisciples, Let us also go, that **we may die with him.**

1. Jesus knew that He was to die 8 *His* disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late **sought to stone thee**; and goest thou thither again?

- a. He knew that He lived His life on the Father's time table
 - b. You also live on the Father's time table, you are not an accident, you do not live life like a coincidence
2. Jesus had called His disciples to follow Him into a life of death **Galatians 6:14** But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.
- a. Following Jesus literally means leaving your life, dying to it **Matthew 16:24-26** Then said Jesus unto his disciples, **If** any *man* will **come after me**, let him **deny himself**, and **take up his cross**, and **follow me**. **25** For whosoever will **save** his life shall **lose** it: and whosoever will **lose** his life for my sake shall **find** it. **26** For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
 - b. It is through death that life comes **John 12:24-26** Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat **fall** into the ground **and die**, it abideth alone: but if it die, it **bringeth forth much fruit**. **25** He that **loveth his life shall lose**

it; and he that **hateth his life** in this world shall **keep it unto life eternal.** 26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour.

- c. True joy comes when you quit running your own life and give up your purposes for His
- d. This truth is the difference between a joyless Christian and a joyful Christian, a defeated and a victorious one?
- e. Paul took that death to himself when he counted all that he had and was to be but loss **Philippians 3:7-11** **But** what things were **gain to me,** those I counted **loss for Christ.** 8 Yea doubtless, and I **count all things *but* loss** for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have **suffered the loss of all things,** and do count them *but* **dung,** that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, **not having mine own righteousness,** which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 **That I may know him,** and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his

sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

3. As long as you know you are on God's time table you can walk confidently 9 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. 10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

- a. We know who is in charge of our schedule
- b. We know that we walk in the light because He is the light
- c. We will not stumble because we walk in His light

4. Get an attitude like Thomas

a. Men on earth are often remembered more for their failures than their successes

i. David and Bathsheba

ii. Rahab the harlot

iii. Doubting Thomas John 20:25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print

of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

- b. It might seem that Thomas pessimistic but there was real danger if they returned
- c. What sounds pessimistic really said something else. It said
 - i. He was honest
 - ii. He was loyal
 - iii. It was courageous
 - iv. It was a statement of commitment
- d. Are you honestly so in love with Jesus that you are ready for whatever might come?
- e. Are you ready to live dying to what you want for what He wants?