

Participant's Guide 7 In Remembrance of Me

I. Celebrating Christ as Forerunner

Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

II. Read this week's story: Matthew 26: 20-29; Mark 14: 17-25; Luke 22:14-23; John 13: 1-30 DA 71 and 72. (Read Background).

III. For Meditation:

a. But the Communion service was not to be a season of sorrowing. This was not its purpose. As the Lord's disciples gather about His table, they are not to remember and lament their shortcomings. They are not to dwell upon their past religious experience, whether that experience has been elevating or depressing. They are not to recall the differences between them and their brethren. The preparatory service has embraced all this. The self-examination, the confession of sin, the reconciling of differences, has all been done. Now they come to meet with Christ. They are not to stand in the shadow of the cross, but in its saving light. DA 659. Do you generally think of Joy or sorrow at a communion service. _____

b. Why do you think at the Last Supper the disciples still didn't know who was going to betray Jesus? See Matthew 26: 21-25. _____

c. How does Jesus patience with Judas provide an example for us? _____

d. Describe when, in your life, the Footwashing service made a profound impact? _____

e. After Christ had washed the disciples' feet, and had taken His garments and sat down again, He said to them, "Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call Me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him." DA 649. With such a direct command why do you think more Christians don't follow this special service? _____

f. Why do you believe that attendance is often lower when we have communion service in church? _____

IV. Prayer this week:

1. Five People who need your prayer support;
2. Your Church in its witness for Christ;
3. Your Family it will be close and united.
4. The leaders of your church, conference, city and province.
5. That you will have the courage to leave your comfort zone to fulfill a calling from God.

Background

Thursday— From the Last supper to His trials (Starts the day in the Mount of Olives and ends with a night of trials mostly at Caiaphas' palace)

As I embark on this part of the story in the countdown toward Calvary, it seems appropriate to pause and thank Jesus for all He has done to provide for our salvation. "Thank You Jesus for your pain and death on our behalf!"

I will first give a chronology of the events of the day (Times are suggestion, not known exactly)—then have some devotional comments.

Chronology of Thursday's events--Mid-afternoon: Preparation for Last Supper. 6 pm: Last Supper: Preceded by Jesus washing their feet, they sang Psalms 113-118 at this event; Following the supper on the way to Gethsemane He gave the passionate messages and prayer recorded in John's gospel (John 14-17)—Judas left after the supper to betray Jesus); Perhaps around 10 am they arrive in Gethsemane and Jesus prays His most agonizing prayer asking His disciples to pray with Him. Around 12 midnight: Judas and the mob capture Jesus and take him to trial—the disciples flee; around 1-2 am the appearance before Annas occurs where Jesus' face is slapped; Trial before Annas and Caiaphas and other Sanhedrin members 2-3 am; (During the night Peter denies Jesus three times outside Caiapha's palace. Today a bronze statue is there picturing Peter in denial); a night appearance before the Sanhedrin where religious leaders seek to form a basis for condemnation 3-4 am; then just after the break of dawn 5-5:30 am, another meeting with the Sanhedrin—they condemn Him for blasphemy (Saying He claimed to be the Son of God). The reason for this second meeting is that no trials were to be allowed at night where death might be a penalty.

Judas left three meetings to negotiate with religious leaders on the betrayal—Saturday night, Tuesday night and Thursday night. How could he have been in fellowship with Jesus and the other disciples during the day while planning betrayal at night?—sin leads to strange behavior.

In the garden of Gethsemane, the disciples (Peter, James and John) fell asleep during Jesus greatest moments of agony in prayer. Jesus said, "Could you not watch with me one hour?" Perhaps during this unusual time of Covid 19 when we have more time than usual at Easter, we could spend time reading and praying through the accounts surrounding Calvary in the gospels and even the book *Desire of Ages*: Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; Luke 22-24; John 19-21; DA 685-795 (Free Online).