

Earnestly Desire; Luke 22:14-15

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

I. The Lord’s Supper

- A. Why would Jesus desire to eat this supper with his disciples?
 - 1. Jesus knows this is where he parts from his disciples (that he has been with for 3 years)
 - 2. Jesus knows this is where the crowds turn on him
 - 3. Jesus knows this is the beginning of his suffering
- B. Luke gives us 25 verses on the Lord’s supper; Luke 22:14-38
- C. Matthew gives us 19 verses; Matthew 26:17-35
- D. Mark gives us 20 verses; Mark 14:12-31
 - 1. These 3 accounts tell us about the betrayal, the institution of the Lord’s supper and Peter’s predicted denial
 - 2. Luke goes into an argument about who’s the greatest in the kingdom
- E. John’s account starts in chapter 13 and ends in 17
- F. So, while the other accounts give us verses about what happened during the Lord’s supper, John gives us chapters (155 verses)
- G. It is here in these chapters that we see why Jesus “earnestly desired” to eat this supper with them

II. The Answer to Arguments

- A. Luke records that an argument arose among the Apostles (just after He tells them that one of them will betray Him)
 - 1. I find it interesting that in the middle of the feast of Passover, the apostles start and argument
 - 2. Luke 22:24–30; ²⁴ A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves. ²⁸ “You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹ and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
- B. Maybe this was the catalyst that started the washing of feet
 - 1. John 13:12–20; ¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸ I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’ ¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.”

- C. Here we find one of the greatest lessons of life, how to work through conflict
 - 1. Conflict is inescapable
 - 2. All too often, though, when we get involved in conflict our end result is to be right
 - 3. We think we are right from the beginning so it is natural that whoever we are talking to must think we are right
 - 4. Take the apostles argument about who's the greatest (I'm sure they all thought they had some kind of right to that title; after all they had been with him for 3 years)
 - 5. And when we cannot convey that "rightness" to the other person, the argument can swiftly devolve into personal attacks
 - 6. I (early in my marriage) watched Gary Smalley who is a Christian marriage counselor. He would say that he could tell if a marriage was going to survive simply by the way they argued
 - a) Couples that had arguments that disintegrated into personal attacks rarely survive
 - b) Couples that remember that it is not about being right, but about finding a solution overwhelmingly survive
 - c) I think we could apply this to all relationships, intimate or not
 - D. Jesus' solution to His apostles' conflict?
 - 1. Washing feet (not to ensure clean feet, but to impress upon them the idea that a leader is one who serves)
 - 2. And, that service is borne out of love
 - 3. John 13:34–35; ³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
 - E. Paul uses this same understanding of love overcoming conflict in his letter to the church in Corinth
 - 1. The church was fighting and bickering over many things
 - a) Conflict created by who performed the baptism
 - b) Conflict created by taking each other to court
 - c) Conflict created by the very gifts given to them by the Holy Spirit
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 12:27–31; ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.
 - 3. This is the context of chapter 13 (the love chapter)
 - 4. Chapter 14 begins, "Pursue love" and then Paul continues to show them the limitations of the spiritual gifts (whereas love has no limitations)
 - 5. Paul reminds them a love that thinks about others first is above all
 - F. I often wonder what Jesus was thinking as he stood up from the table and took off his outer garments
 - G. His lesson was that in order to be great in the kingdom, you must be a servant borne out of love
 - H. Earnestly desire to be a loving servant
- III. Know where you are going
- A. John 14:1–7; ¹ "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to

prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

- B. “How can we know the way?”
 - C. Jesus makes a very clear statement here; the way to the Father is to know Jesus
 - D. To know Jesus is to know the Father is to know where you are going
 - 1. John 10:24–30; ²⁴ So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” ²⁵ Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name bear witness about me, ²⁶ but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. ²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”
 - 2. Those that know where they are going are the sheep that hear the Shepherd’s voice
 - 3. John 10:7–8; ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.
 - 4. We read the words of Jesus as written in the Gospels; we read the words of His apostles and prophets as recorded in the history of the church and the letters written to the churches
 - 5. The sheep do not listen to anyone else
 - 6. The shepherd is the one that will lay down his life for the sheep
 - 7. The Shepherd is Jesus who laid down his life for us, we must listen to Him
 - 8. 1 John 5:1–3; ¹ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.
 - E. This idea of obedience is how we know where we are going
 - 1. God Himself tells us to listen to Jesus at the transfiguration
 - 2. The Apostle John tells us that loving God means keeping His commandments (which are not burdensome)
 - F. The common thread throughout this lesson and throughout the NT is love.
 - 1. Love makes us servants in the Kingdom (it demands that we serve others)
 - 2. Love makes us keep the commandments of God (it demands that we obey Him)
 - 3. Love is above all the gifts that God gives His people
 - 4. A true love for the souls that belong to God
 - G. We should earnestly desire this
- IV. Earnestly Desire
- A. A love for God and His souls that would make us true servants in His kingdom
 - B. A love for God and His souls that would ensure we “know where we are going”