

Thursday 14 April 2022

Matthew 26: 20 - 28

20 When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. 21 And while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

22 They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, "Surely you don't mean me, Lord?"

23 Jesus replied, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

25 Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, "Surely you don't mean me, Rabbi?"

Jesus answered, "You have said so."

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

God truly has no favourites and treats us all with far more grace than we deserve. Jesus bends down and washes his disciples' dirty sweaty feet and then later shares this intimate last meal with them. The Passover meal, a reminder of God saving Israel from slavery and the Last Supper, a reminder of grace and forgiveness. What strikes me the most about these two scenes is that Jesus does these things with the person who will betray him and the person who will deny him and all the rest who will desert him. He knows all these things in advance and yet he doesn't treat them any differently. He bends down and washes Judas' feet just like all the others and knowing all that is to come still shares his body and blood with Peter. If I'm truly honest I don't think I would be that magnanimous. We worship a God of grace, love and forgiveness who serves even those who will betray and deny him. What an incredible and awesome thought. How much do we also benefit from this same grace, love and forgiveness even when we don't deserve it?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, every time we read your Scriptures we discover again how gracious and compassionate you are. We love the stories about you gathering the children to you, revealing your heart for children, your patience and kind spirit, but passages like today's remind us that you do not only love children, who are mostly easy to love in their innocence and their excited way they view the world, you even love those who are difficult to love, those who betray you, giving you up to death and those who deny you, deserting you when you most need them. You are a God that doesn't have favourites and we are so

grateful for that. We are so grateful that you love us even when we are at our worst, even then you invite us to join you at your table and you welcome us to your paradise.

Thank you for your endless patience and grace, Lord Jesus.

Amen.

Rev Kim S Brown