



“MAUNDY THURSDAY-HE THOUGHT OF ME!!”

- Our **mission** is to *Reach* people in the Name of Jesus; *Disciple* people in the Way of Jesus; *Empower* people in the Service of Jesus.
 - Our **method** is to ensure that everything we do is *Christ Centered; Word Focused; & Ministry Minded*
 - Our **message** is *the Gospel*.
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Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)

“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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Prayer

“Father open my eyes, so I can see Your truth. Open my ears, so I can hear Your Voice. Open my mind, so I can understand Your Word. And open my heart, so I may receive all that You have for me, that is for me. In Jesus Name, AMEN!”

Background:

First a little background. Similar to the account of the first Palm Sunday, this first **Maundy Thursday** is also recorded in all four of the Gospels: (*Matthew 26:17-46; Mark 14:12-72; Luke 22:7-60; John 13-17*).

Maundy Thursday is the name given to the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples, known as the Last Supper.

The word "**Maundy**" is derived from the Latin word ("**mandatum**") which means "**command.**" The "**Maundy**" of **Maundy Thursday** refers to the command Jesus gave to the disciples in the Upper Room during the Last Supper, when He said, "*A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*" (John 13:34, Revised Standard Version).

There is really a lot that happened on the evening of that first **Maundy Thursday**.

Of course, we know that Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. We also know the story about how Jesus washed His disciple's feet, and how Judas picked up and left the room to go out and betray Him for 30 pieces of silver.

As a matter of fact, Jesus had a lot to say and a lot to teach that evening. For the Gospel of John dedicates five chapters (chapters 13-17); almost ¼ of the entire book of John describes what happened and what was said during these last few hours in the Upper Room, through to Jesus' arrest after His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane.

One interesting fact about John's account is that *John is only one who details and describes the account of Jesus washing His disciples' feet, while the other accounts don't, but John* also doesn't include any *mention* of the Last Supper, although the other 3 gospels each describe in detail the account of the Last Supper.

FOOTNOTE: That is why, to all of us as disciples and learners, it really is important to read and study each of the accounts for full understanding.

I think of these hours as a proverbial 'last minute cram session' that Jesus provided His disciples. It must have been impossible for them to take it all in. It had to feel like trying to take a drink from a fire hydrant.

Jesus taught them about His betrayal and death...about how their grief would turn into joy. This was an emotional lesson Jesus had to teach them.

It's no wonder those disciples were exhausted, and later fell asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane. Luke gives us this interesting detail when he says in Luke 22:45, he says they were "*....exhausted from sorrow.*" (NIV)

As Jesus experienced each of these events that evening - and up through the Cross on Good Friday- - - as He pressed on, faced evil, persevered, fulfilled Scripture and His Father's will - - - I wonder what was on Jesus' mind?

Let me ask you, ‘What do **YOU** think about when you face suffering. unfair treatment, or wickedness? What about now in the face of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic? What do you think about when you are weak or afraid...sick, tired, depressed or angry?

What about when you feel like you are carrying a heavy load on your shoulders? Do you think about God? Are your thoughts about God complimentary? What do you think about Him? Do you think He is fair? Do you sometimes lose patience with Him? Have you ever harbored doubts or resentment toward Him? Do you or have ever wondered what God wants to do with your life? Or even wondered what God thinks about you?’ Especially when you are suffering...maybe facing unfair treatment, or wickedness?

Message:

One of the central messages of the entire Bible is—that God is thinking about you and me, US. Starting all the way back with the creation of Adam and Eve. Then through the flood when God delivered Noah & his family. The calling of Abraham and singling out of Israel. The giving of the Ten Commandments through Moses. The covenants and the promise of the Messiah all the way through the Old Testament history.

All the Prophets and all of God’s miracles and words—we can see that God was thinking of us—leading all the way up to the Birth of the Baby Jesus in Bethlehem in the New Testament—Actually the incarnation of God. You see it in Jesus’ lifetime, His words and miracles—and all the way to the Cross and Resurrection morning.

That is exactly what God is saying to us in Hebrews 12:2. In Hebrews 11 God presented 40 verses worth of examples from the Old Testament—telling us about faith and God’s faithfulness—and then the Bible says this:

Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV) *"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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

God is saying to us in this single Bible verse, "**take a long hard look at Jesus.**" Remember during this Holy week, today this Maundy Thursday...tomorrow on Good Friday, all day Saturday and even through the celebration of Resurrection Sunday!

God is saying to us..."**take a long hard look at Jesus.**" He didn't enjoy the Cross. It says here He "*endured*" it, and He "*despised the shame*" of it. But what kept Jesus going? What kept Him on task?

Was it the support of His disciples? **No ma'am No sir!** Was it that Jesus somehow perfected mind over matter? **No ma'am No sir!** Was it that Jesus had a supernatural pain tolerance? **No ma'am No sir!** What kept Jesus on task? What was it that kept Him on the cross?

Hebrews 12:2-3 (NKJV) "*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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.*"

Jesus faces evil, so that you and I can face eternity. Jesus hung on the Cross, so that you and I can claim heaven. Jesus feels the press of evil, so that you and I can feel the presence of His Spirit, and the power of His love.

Simply put- - the bottom line is: He thought of you and He thought me. He thought of us!

There in the upper room, Jesus said, "*Take and eat, take and drink, this is my body and my blood given for you, for the forgiveness of sins.*" He thought of you and He thought of me. He made provision for you and me, to receive the forgiveness of sins, to find a way in this crazy mixed-up world—to find the healing, repair and recovery from the brokenness that we suffer from, so much of the time because of the mortar shells of sin—that keep exploding in our lives.

On that night (John 17:20) Jesus prayed, "*My prayer is not for these alone... (these disciples) alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.*"

Jesus reached through the centuries, across the thousands of miles and the generations—as He projected His thoughts through the annuals of time... right to today as the world grapples with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic.

He said in essence, **"before I step out and go to the Cross- - I'm thinking of you. -
- And what I am about to do - - I'm thinking of you and what your soul needs,
and how much forgiveness you need, and what stands between you and heaven."**

But I wonder how it felt when PETER DISOWNED JESUS.

Earlier in the upper room Jesus said to the disciples, (Mark 14:27) *"You will all fall away...you will all stumble because of me this night."* Then in V.29 of that same text Peter says, *"Even if all fall away, I will not."* And in V.30 Jesus says to Peter, *"Let me clue you in Peter, tonight before the rooster crows (2) you will disown (deny) me three times."* And Peter says in V.31, *"No way Jesus, I will die first, before doing that."* And then the events of that night unfold.

Peter's life has been turned upside down. He's behind enemy lines out there in the courtyard of the high priest, warming himself at the fire, and he denies Jesus once, and then twice, and three times, and as the words slip out of his mouth—off in the distance a rooster crows—and at that precise moment, Jesus turned around and locks eyes with Peter—and a chill raced up Peter's spine.

I wonder how it felt for Jesus – at that moment – to look out, and not to be able to count one friend. He could have denied us. When it felt like all of earth was turning against Him—Even before His Father who loves Him turned His face away while He hung on the Cross—on this Maundy Thursday He turned toward us - - and remembered you and me. As God promises us in the Bible, (Deut. 31:6) *"I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

Closing Thought:

While I certainly could continue with more inductive and expository teaching recounting the many scenes and events of that first Maundy Thursday...

The central theme and message that the Holy Spirit has instructed me to give and share is to remind all of us is "**take a long hard look at Jesus.**" To especially remember during this Holy week 2020, today this Maundy Thursday...tomorrow on Good Friday, all day Saturday and even through the celebration of Resurrection Sunday **that God was and still is thinking about you!**

The Bible says (Philippians 2:7-8), "*he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*"

At that one moment in time, all history stopped and pointed to a single hill outside of Jerusalem, the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called "**Golgotha**"), is where God appointed a Savior to pay the penalty for your sin and mine.

Of course, we know He didn't stay dead, because on that third day morning He got up from the grave with ALL POWER in His Hand!!

While that certainly sounds good in a roar or a tune, but beyond the hype and emotion...just know...that your life was traded for the life of God's only Son. You were worth dying for.

(Philippians 2:9-11) "*⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*"

No one can take your place in His heart. Why? Because He thought of you and He thought of me.

May God continue to bless and protect you always!

Pastor King