

Introduction (Mark 14:12-42)

On May 30, 2020, astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley prepared to launch on SpaceX Falcon 9. After being carefully screened and selected, they had been preparing for this launch for over two years. They had specialized training that included land and water survival, scuba diving in a forty-foot deep pool, and over 300 hours of training on space simulators. They had trained hard and prepared for this day, and it was finally here. I can imagine that they were excited, nervous, and very alert to everything that was going on.

What did they do on this particular day. They were scheduled to get up at 8 a.m. I am sure they were up long before the 8 a.m. call, and had rehearsed everything that was going to happen that day. They got up and had breakfast. NASA said they could eat whatever they wanted and Doug Hurley had steak and eggs that day for breakfast. At 11:07 a.m. they had a final weather update, and since the weather was suitable for launch, the launch schedule continued. At 11:21 a.m., after the weather briefing, they were helped into their space suits. At noon, Bob and Doug said their goodbyes to their wives and children. Bob's wife, Megan McArthur, is also an astronaut, and they have a son named Theo. Doug's wife, Karen Nyberg, is also an astronaut, and they have a son named Jack. Everyone in the family had prepared for this launch day, and everyone knew what was at stake. After their goodbyes, they got into their Tesla and were taken for a three-mile ride to Launch Complex 39A. They had three songs picked out on a playlist that they listened to on the short drive over to the launch complex. They took an elevator up to the White Room, where they boarded the Crew Dragon. At 1:27 p.m., the hatch was closed, and they began going through all their pre-flight check lists. At 2:36 p.m., NASA made a final determination that the weather was suitable and began fueling the rocket. At 2:39 p.m. the walkway from the Crew Dragon was retracted. At 2:44 p.m. the launch escape system was engaged, which would send the capsule away if any problems occurred. At 3:22 p.m. the Falcon 9 launched. After a 19-hour flight, the Crew Dragon docked with the International Space Station.

In our text today, Jesus, like these astronauts, has been preparing for this day for many years. He had been chosen by the Father for this mission. There was no one else that qualified for this mission. He had been through all kinds of testing in the wilderness, and He had passed every test with flying colors. In the months leading up to this day he had met with Moses, Elijah, and all the members of His team. He had informed everyone of what to expect on this special Passover day. Jesus began His day by sending His disciples to Jerusalem to prepare a large upper room for the Passover Meal. In the evening, after sharing the Last Supper, Jesus told His crew that one of them was going to betray Him. Then, He took bread and wine and they celebrated communion together. They sang a hymn and then went to the Mount of Olives, where Jesus told them that they would fall away and be scattered. All of them said that they would not and that they would die with Him before denying Him. Jesus told Peter that he would deny Him three times before a cock crowed twice.

From there, they made their way to a place called Gethsemane, where His departure process would begin. This was a place that Jesus had frequently gone to and prayed. He encouraged His disciples to pray with Him. This was the final opportunity to spiritually prepare themselves for what was about to happen. Three times Jesus came back to His disciples and found them sleeping, rather than praying. After the third time, He said, "Get up, let us be going, the one who betrays Me is at hand." It was launch time and Jesus would be led away to where He would accomplish the mission that He had been preparing to do. Everything was according to the pre-determined plan.

1. Preparations for the Passover Feast (Mark 14:12-16)
2. Lord's Supper (Upper Room) (Mark 14:17-26)
3. Falling Away (Mount of Olives) (Mark 14:27-31)
4. Prayers (Gethsemane) (Mark 14:32-42)

(Mark 14:12-16) "On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover *lamb* was being sacrificed, His disciples *said to Him, "Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?" {13} And He *sent two of His disciples and *said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; {14} and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher says, "Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?" {15} "And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished *and* ready; prepare for us there." {16} The disciples went out and came to the city, and found *it* just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover."

(Mark 14:17-26) "When it was evening He *came with the twelve. {18} As they were reclining *at the table* and eating, Jesus said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me—one who is eating with Me." {19} They began to be grieved and to say to Him one by one, "Surely not I?" {20} And He said to them, "*It is* one of the twelve, one who dips with Me in the bowl. {21} "For the Son of Man *is to* go just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! *It would have been* good for that man if he had not been born." {22} While they were eating, He took *some* bread, and after a blessing He broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, and said, "Take *it*; this is My body." {23} And when He had taken a cup *and* given thanks, He gave *it* to them, and they all drank from it. {24} And He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. {25} "Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." {26} After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

(Mark 14:27-31) "And Jesus *said to them, "You will all fall away, because it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP SHALL BE SCATTERED.' {28} "But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." {29} But Peter said to Him, "*Even* though all may fall away, yet I will not." {30} And Jesus *said to him, "Truly I say to you, that this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times." {31} But *Peter* kept saying insistently, "*Even* if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all were saying the same thing also."

(Mark 14:32-42) "They *came to a place named Gethsemane; and He *said to His disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed." {33} And He *took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. {34} And He *said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch." {35} And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell to the ground and *began* to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. {36} And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will." {37} And He *came and *found them sleeping, and *said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? {38} "Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." {39} Again He went away and prayed, saying the same words. {40} And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. {41} And He *came the third time, and *said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. {42} "Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!"

1. Preparations for the Passover Feast (Mark 14:12-16)

It was the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover Lamb was being sacrificed. If you recall God's instructions in Exodus 12, they were to sacrifice the Passover Lamb on the 14th of the first month (Nisan). Jesus' disciples asked Jesus where He wanted them to go and prepare to eat the Passover. Jesus gave them instructions, saying, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher says, "Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"'" And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; prepare for us there." Jesus gave them exact details. Jesus knew about the room that was furnished and ready. Jesus knew that the owner would let them use it. Jesus knew that there would be a man carrying a pitcher of water. Jesus came here as the Son of Man, fully human, but the fullness of deity also dwelled in Him in bodily form. Jesus was the Son of God. All these details were pre-arranged by God. This was the pre-determined plan of God being fleshed out.

(Mark 14:12-15) "On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover *lamb* was being sacrificed, His disciples *said to Him, "Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?" {13} And He *sent two of His disciples and *said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; {14} and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher says, "Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"" {15} "And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished *and* ready; prepare for us there."

(Col 2:9) "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,"

In Jesus' debrief with Moses and Elijah, He may have been given some of these details. It may be that Jesus had a word of knowledge, given by the Holy Spirit. We don't know if it was Jesus operating in His deity, or by a word from His Father. This was not the only time that Jesus saw and spoke about things happening in other places. When He was calling His disciples, He told Nathanael that He saw him under the fig tree. Nathanael answered, Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." Jesus was once again showing His real identity to His disciples in this last meal with them.

(John 1:48-50) "Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." {49} Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel." {50} Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these."

Earlier that week He had told them to go into the village and bring a colt tied there that no one had ever sat on. He told them to untie it and bring it. He gave them the reply to use when someone asked what they were doing. They went and everything happened just as Jesus had told them. Jesus lived in the natural, but He also lived in the supernatural.

(Mark 11:1-6) "As they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples, {2} and said to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find a colt tied *there*, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it *here*. {3} "If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' you say, 'The Lord has need of it'; and immediately he will send it back here." {4} They went away

and found a colt tied at the door, outside in the street; and they *untied it. {5} Some of the bystanders were saying to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" {6} They spoke to them just as Jesus had told *them*, and they gave them permission."

And just as the disciples went and brought back a colt earlier that week, they went out and found the man carrying the pitcher, and also the conversation with the owner, and the room that had been prepared.

(Mark 14:16) "The disciples went out and came to the city, and found *it* just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover."

One of the intended results of prophesying is that people recognize that God is among us. Notice what Paul wrote to the Corinthians about prophesying. He said that when we prophesy, unbelievers and ungifted men will fall on their faces and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you." Jesus' prophetic words about these final events were just one more evidence of who Jesus was, and that the disciples were with God. He is Immanuel, God with us.

(1 Cor 14:24-25) "But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; {25} the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you."

2. Lord's Supper (Upper Room) (Mark 14:17-26)

When it was evening, Jesus and the twelve apostles of the Lamb went to the house and were reclining at the table and eating. In Exodus 12, they were to kill the Passover Lamb at twilight, so this is at night after the Passover Lamb has been slain and cooked. The Greek word for evening that is used is *opsios*, and the root word means long after or late. They were reclining at the table and eating and Jesus began to share with them one more time that one of them was going to betray Him. Mealtimes are great opportunities for discussions. The early church took meals together and they had all things in common. You get to know people when you eat with them. This particular meal gave Jesus an opportunity to share with His disciples about the betrayal.

(Mark 14:17-18) "When it was evening He came with the twelve. {18} As they were reclining *at the table* and eating, Jesus said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me—one who is eating with Me."

The disciples were grieved when He told them that one of them was going to betray Him. Each one of them said, "Surely not I?" I remember in prison ministry that when you asked people if they had done something wrong, a lot of them had excuses and denied responsibility for what they had done. Judas was the treasurer for the group, and he was also a thief. He used to pilfer the money from the bag, and he was certainly not going to admit that he was the one that was betraying Jesus. Jesus knew who it was, and said it was one of the twelve who dips with Me in the bowl. In Matthew's account, he tells us that Judas said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" Judas had no remorse or contriteness of heart about what he was doing.

(Mark 14:19-20) "They began to be grieved and to say to Him one by one, "Surely not I?" {20} And He said to them, "*It is* one of the twelve, one who dips with Me in the bowl."

(Matt 26:22-25) "Being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, "Surely not I, Lord?" {23} And He answered, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. {24} "The Son of Man *is to* go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." {25} And Judas, who was betraying Him, said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" Jesus *said to him, "You have said *it* yourself."

In John's account, Peter specifically asked who it was that Jesus was referring to. Jesus said, "that is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him." And after dipping the morsel into the wine, He gave it to Judas. Jesus revealed who it was to the apostles but they did not pick up on it at the time. After the morsel, Satan entered into Judas and Jesus told him, "What you do, do quickly." Judas left and the disciples thought that Jesus had sent him on a mission to help the poor. Judas was not sent by the Lord or led by the Spirit. The devil had entered into him, and he was being driven by Satan.

(John 13:24-27) "So Simon Peter *gestured to him, and *said to him, "Tell *us* who it is of whom He is speaking." {25} He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, *said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" {26} Jesus then *answered, "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him." So when He had dipped the morsel, He *took and *gave it to Judas, *the son* of Simon Iscariot. {27} After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus *said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

Jesus told the apostles that it was going to be woe to the one that betrays Him, and that it would be good for that man if he had not been born. We all have a choice in life to make. Are we going to receive and confess Jesus as Lord, or are we going to reject Jesus? Judas had rejected Jesus and it was not going to be good for him. It won't be good for anyone who rejects Christ. There is a heaven and a hell and there will be a day of judgment where all will stand before God and give account. It was not going to be good for Judas in this life or in eternity.

(Mark 14:21) "For the Son of Man *is to* go just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! *It would have been* good for that man if he had not been born."

While they were eating, Jesus took some bread and after a blessing He broke it and gave it to them saying, "Take it; this is My body." Then, He took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. Then, He said, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many." The Lord's Supper is one of the things that the early church celebrated when they came together. It is a time to remember what Jesus did for us. It is something that our body is also committed to doing. We take time every service to remember His sacrifice and to give thanks for new covenant that He established with us through His blood. We take time to remember the sacrifice that He made to forgive our sins.

(Mark 14:22-24) "While they were eating, He took *some* bread, and after a blessing He broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, and said, "Take *it*; this is My body." {23} And when He had taken a cup *and* given thanks, He gave *it* to them, and they all drank from it. {24} And He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many."

Jesus told them that He would not drink the fruit of the vine again until He drinks it new in the kingdom of God. After singing a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives.

(Mark 14:25-26) "Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." {26} After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

3. Prophecy of Falling Away and Denial (Mount of Olives) (Mark 14:27-31)

At the Mount of Olives Jesus warned them about falling away. He said, "You will all fall away." Peter is the name that comes to mind when thinking about falling away, but Jesus said that they would all fall away. Jesus quoted Zechariah 13:7, which said that when the shepherd was struck down, the sheep would be scattered. Jesus was about to be struck down, and this prophecy was about to be fulfilled.

(Mark 14:27) "And Jesus *said to them, "You will all fall away, because it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP SHALL BE SCATTERED.'"

(Zech 13:7) "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, and against the man, My Associate," declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; and I will turn My hand against the little ones."

Jesus did not leave them with just a warning; He told them that He would be raised and then He would go ahead of them to Galilee. They were in Jerusalem, so Jesus is telling them that He will see them again in Galilee after He is raised from the dead. They should have been encouraged and full of hope by this word that Jesus spoke to them.

(Mark 14:28) "But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

Peter said to him, "Even though all may fall away, yet I will not." In verse thirty-one, "they all were saying the same thing also." They were all pretty self-confident, and were not really heeding the warning that Jesus was giving them.

(Mark 14:29-31) "But Peter said to Him, "*Even* though all may fall away, yet I will not." {30} And Jesus *said to him, "Truly I say to you, that this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times." {31} But *Peter* kept saying insistently, "*Even* if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And they all were saying the same thing also."

In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul taught on dealing with temptations. The first thing he said was "let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall." The apostles thought that they were standing and that nothing was going to cause them to fall or fall away. They should have been taking heed. In the face of temptation, we need to be very careful and take heed, lest we fall. According to God's word, we are not going to be tempted beyond what we are able, and God will provide a way of escape. The disciples did not have to fall away, but they did not take heed to the warning Jesus was giving them.

(1 Cor 10:12-13) "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. {13} No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."

In response to Peter's confident statement, Jesus said that "this very night, before a rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times." It was not going to be one time or two times; Peter was going to deny Jesus three times that very night. Despite this warning, Peter insisted that he would not deny Jesus, even if he had to die with Jesus.

4. Pressing Into God at Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42)

After leaving the Mount of Olives, they came to a place named Gethsemane. This comes from two Hebrew words, gath and shemen. Gath means a wine press and shemen means oil. Gethsemane was a garden where they pressed olives to get olive oil. But Jesus did not bring His disciples to Gethsemane to press olives; He brought them there to press in to God and pray. Jesus said to His disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed." Jesus was about to be arrested and crucified, and His soul was deeply grieved to the point of death. How was He going to deal with this? He was going to pray. Jesus took everything to the Father in prayer. He gave us an example of what we should be doing when we are grieved or troubled. We need to go to a place like Gethsemane and press into God and pray. Jesus took with Him Peter, James, and John and told them to remain and keep watch. Keeping watch is another way of saying to pray. The disciples were about to be tempted; they also needed to pray. Part of taking heed lest we fall is to press in and pray.

(Mark 14:32-34) "They came to a place named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here until I have prayed." {33} And He *took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. {34} And He *said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch."

In the Lord's Prayer or Model Prayer, Jesus taught the apostles to pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. That would have been a great thing to be praying about under those circumstances, particularly when Jesus had just warned them.

(Matt 6:13) "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]"

Jesus told the disciples to remain there and keep watch. Meanwhile, He went a little beyond them and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible the hour might pass by. He went a little beyond them, but we have His prayer recorded, which means that they could hear what He was praying. Jesus went on, "Abba! Father!" Abba means is an affectionate and personal term for daddy or father, so Jesus is calling out to His Father. He continued, "All things are possible for You, remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will." What Jesus was about to go through was not going to be easy, pleasant, fun, or desirable. Jesus had no desire at all to go through it, and so He shared His own desires with the Father, "remove this cup from Me." But, Jesus did something that is important for all of us to do; He submitted His will and desires to the Father's will. He said, "Yet not what I will, but what You will." There are many people who think that God is obligated to grant them everything they want, but that is not the example Jesus gave us. He submitted His will and desires to the Father's will.

(Mark 14:35-36) "And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell to the ground and *began* to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. {36} And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."

Then, Jesus came back to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Jesus had just told Peter that he was going to deny Christ three times, and that he needed to be praying. Peter should have been praying that he would not come into temptation.

(Mark 14:37-38) "And He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? {38} "Keep watching and praying that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Back in the early 1980's, Karen and I were in a church in Orlando, Florida. Jim Elliff was the pastor and he taught about prayer. He also modeled prayer for us. When he left, David Loveless came, and he expanded our understanding about prayer and went in depth into the Model Prayer. We also learned from Larry Lea's book, "Could You Not Tarry With Me One Hour?" It was a challenge to all of us to spend an hour a day in prayer, and to use the Lord's Model prayer as an outline to pray about different areas. God was doing a work in Karen and I, and our prayer lives were significantly impacted by this. When I pray, I still use that basic outline. I begin with thanksgiving and praises, hallowing the name of Jesus. I pray about His kingdom coming and His will being done. I pray about our daily bread, but more often than not, I pray about receiving spiritual bread. We know that we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. So, I pray that we would have ears to hear what the Father wants to say to us that day, either by His Spirit or in His word. If there is a situation needing forgiveness, I pray about that. I pray about temptations and being led by the Spirit, not by my own will. I submit my life and desires to God as a living and holy sacrifice. I pray about doing His will and bringing honor and glory to Him in all that I do and say. I use the model prayer and it is easy for anyone to pray or tarry an hour when you have an outline.

Then, Jesus went away and prayed, saying the same words. Apparently Peter was awake enough to hear those words. Scholars believe that Mark went and spent time with Peter, and that this gospel account was primarily passed down to him from Peter. So, Peter is probably the one that gave us this account of Jesus' prayers at Gethsemane. After praying again, Jesus came back and found them sleeping again. When He said something to them about praying, they did not know what to answer Him. They had been busted. All of them should have been praying about not being led into temptation, and none of them had prayed. They had fallen off to sleep. Jesus went off to pray a third time and when He came back, they had gone off to sleep again. Jesus said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand."

(Mark 14:39-42) "Again He went away and prayed, saying the same words. {40} And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him. {41} And He *came the third time, and *said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough; the hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. {42} "Get up, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!"

There was a window of time that they had to pray before Jesus was betrayed, arrested, and turned over to be crucified. There was a window of time to pray not to be led into temptation. They had slept through the prayer window. In Psalm 32, David said, "let everyone who is godly pray to

You in a time when You may be found.” There is a window of time to pray, and the disciples had missed that opportunity and window; they had slept through it.

(Ps 32:6) “Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.”

There are lots of things the church should be praying right now. We have a window of time and we should be praying. There is a window of time until the time of the Gentiles is finished, so we should be praying for souls to be saved in this window. There is a window of time until the Lord returns. We should be praying for opportunities to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world. There is a window of time until the persecutions of the last days begin to be released. Even now, there is widespread persecution. We need to be praying that we are not led into temptation, and to be delivered from evil. The evil on the earth is spreading. We have a window of time to be praying for those in authority. The church should not be sleeping through all the things that are going on in the earth. We need to be alert and to keep watch in this present hour.

Conclusion and Applications

This has been Jesus' final day with His disciples. He has invested three years in these men, and now He is getting ready to go back to the Father. If it was my last day with my family, I would be very careful about how I spent it. I would make sure that if I had any important things to say to them, they would be said. When Isaac was old, he called for his older son to bless him (Gen 27:1). As Israel was about to die, he called for his sons and he spoke blessings on them (Gen 49:1-33). I was with my father when he whispered his last words. I dialed the telephone, and with what little strength and breath he had, he whispered to my mother, “I love you.” He wanted to make sure that she knew that he loved her. This is Jesus' last day with His disciples and I believe that He wanted to go over some of the most important things for them to keep in mind in the days to come. So, let's review these vitally important things on that final day.

In Hebrews 3:1, we are exhorted to “consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.” The Apostle has been teaching and instructing His disciples for three years and this final week has been no exception. And on this final day with His disciples He taught them about a number of things. In John's account He girded Himself with a towel and washed their feet. He taught them about taking a lowly servant position and to serve one another. They had gathered for another meal together, and this was certainly no accident that they shared a meal together on this final day. After the meal, He led them in the Lord's Supper, and explained to them what it was all about. Sharing a meal and taking the Lord's Supper were two vitally important things.

Then, Jesus took them to the Garden of Gethsemane and encouraged them to keep watch and pray. He withdrew a little from them, but they could still hear Him speaking with the Father. He was teaching them to press in to God, and to pour out their hearts to God. He taught them to pray God's will, and not their own will. He came back three times and each time He found them sleeping. He kept encouraging them to pray. He taught them the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. He taught them to pray that they would not enter into temptation. Jesus taught them about prayer. This was something vitally important.

(Heb 3:1) “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession;”

Did the disciples get the message? Did they grasp the things that were dear to the Lord's heart this final day with them? Let's turn to Acts 2:42 to see the priorities of the early church. We read that "they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. These four vitally important keys were taught and demonstrated by Jesus on this final day, and the apostles took these four keys and made sure the church in Jerusalem was devoted to these four things.

(Acts 2:42) "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

The other churches in the New Testament modeled the church in Jerusalem. The churches in Judea modeled the church in Jerusalem and they were continually devoting themselves to these four things. In 1 Thessalonians 2:14, Paul commended the church at Thessalonica for becoming imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles teaching, to fellowship, to breaking bread, and to prayer.

(1 Thess 2:14) "For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings at the hands of your own countrymen, even as they *did* from the Jews,"

Many churches today are being patterned after what will attract and appeal to the most people. Karen and I have been trying to pattern churches after the churches in Judea, which was patterned after the church in Jerusalem. We are continually devoting ourselves to these four key elements of church life. I try hard to provide good teaching every week. Devoting ourselves to the apostles' teaching is an important thing. God's people need to be fed, and they need to be taught God's word. We devote ourselves to fellowship. We take meals together. We spend time together because fellowship with one another is a key element. We take the Lord's Supper every week. It is something the early church did, and we do it every week. I appreciate all of you that take time to prepare and lead us in the Lord's Supper. We are all blessed by your service to us. We also devote ourselves to prayer. Many think that prayer is not appropriate in a corporate service. They do not feel that it will attract people. They think that it makes people uncomfortable. The early church was not concerned about that. They were continually devoting themselves to prayer. They did not let things come up that would keep them from praying together. They continually evaluated their activities and prioritized prayer. They were concerned about devoting themselves to these four key elements of church life that Jesus had taught and modeled for them.

This morning, let me ask you some questions.

- Are you continually devoting yourself to fellowship? Do you faithfully attend service every week? Are you spending time with other believers? Are you sharing and truly fellowshiping with one another? Are you serving others in the local body? Are you sharing meals with others? That is a key way to fellowship.
- Are you taking the Lord's Supper every week?
- Are you devoting yourselves to hearing the apostles' teaching? Is the word of God a priority in your life, and are you devoted to the apostles' teaching?

- How is your prayer life? Is your spirit willing and your flesh weak? Does the Lord see you sleeping or pressing in to Him in prayer? Do you tarry in prayer for an hour? Do you use the model prayer to help you in your prayers? How is your prayer life?

God wants you and I to be continually devoting ourselves to these four things. Let's pray.

Introduction (Mark 14:12-42)

1. Preparations for the Passover Feast (Mark 14:12-16, Ex 12, Col 2:9, John 1:48-50, Mark 11:1-6, 1 Cor 14:24-25)

2. Lord's Supper (Upper Room) (Mark 14:17-26, Matt 26:22-25, John 13:24-27)

3. Prophecy of Falling Away and Denial (Mount of Olives) (Mark 14:27-31, Zech 13:7, 1 Cor 10:12-13)

4. Pressing Into God at Gethsemane (Mark 14:32-42, Matt 6:13, Ps 32:6)

Conclusion and Applications (Gen 27:1, 49:1-33, Heb 3:1, Acts 2:42, 1 Thess 2:14)