

# INSTEAD OF ME

Matthew 26-28

## **Introduction:**

Over the next five weeks we will be in a series called “Instead of Me.” In both the sermons and small groups, we will look at the events leading up to Jesus’ betrayal, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection. This week we’ll look at Jesus’ introduction of the Lord’s Supper.

### **This week’s main goal:**

To learn about and reflect on the Lord’s Supper and what it means for the church

Large shared meals often mark special occasions. Jesus had been living and eating with his disciples for several years, but toward the very end of his time with them, he instituted a very special practice during a meal with the disciples. If you remember, baptism, another important church practice, began at the very beginning of Jesus’ ministry. Now here we see the introduction of another essential element in the life of every believer.

In our study we will look at four of the primary Bible passages that introduce and explain the Lord’s Supper. This study will be a little different than our normal Bible studies where we study a passage from beginning to end. Our goal this week is to pause, learn, and reflect on this important part of Christian and church experience. Our aim is not to judge or critique any particular practice of the Lord’s Supper in any particular faith tradition but to examine these passages and draw conclusions that will help us better practice something the Lord commanded his followers to do. The Lord’s Supper is heavy with importance and implications; we should never approach it with indifference or ignorance.

## **Sermon Response Question:**

1) What stood out to you the most from Pastor J.D.’s sermon when he was talking about Judas?

## **Read Matthew 26:26-29.**

## **Bible Study Questions:**

2) Break into two (or more) groups. Have one group read Matthew 26:26-29 and Luke 22:14-23; have the other group read Mark 14:22-25 and I Corinthians 11:17-34. Examine each passage thoroughly, looking for what it teaches us about the Lord’s Supper.

Here are some questions that may help each group understand their passages better:

- What are the key words in this passage?
- Are any words or thoughts repeated?
- Are there any lists?
- Are there any commands?
- How do we understand the gospel better from this passage?
- What is the main idea of this passage?

# INSTEAD OF ME

Matthew 26-28

3) Matthew 26:26-29 shows Jesus with his disciples during the annual Passover celebration. Where do we first see the Passover celebrated in the Bible, and what did it mean for God's people?

4) How did Jesus give new meaning to the Passover celebration when instituting the Lord's Supper?

5) From these four passages, what components do we see involved in the Lord's Supper? What is the significance of each element?

6) In 1 Corinthians 11:17-22, how did the Corinthians fall short when it came to the Lord's Supper? How were these practices impacting the community of believers as a whole?

7) How does partaking in the Lord's Supper proclaim Christ's death? Why should Christ's death be proclaimed?

8) Why should the church continue to observe the Lord's Supper today?

# INSTEAD OF ME

Matthew 26-28

## **Group Application Questions:**

9) Part of the Lord's Supper is examining oneself. Are you ever tempted to start examining others instead of yourself? How should we examine ourselves when preparing to take the Lord's Supper?

10) When you hear the words Jesus used during the Last Supper, either in your own Bible reading or when we observe the Lord's Supper as a church family, how do they shape your faith and encourage you as a believer?

11) What has been most helpful to you in this study in your understanding of the Lord's Supper?

## **Prayer:**

- Invite your group to reflect in prayer for a few minutes over what you have learned and how God may be calling you to repent in your practice of the Lord's Supper.
- Have someone close your time by praying for your group.