



The Last Supper

Key idea:

On the night He was betrayed, Jesus announced the beginning of the New Covenant as He celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples.

Key text:

Mark 14:17-31

17 When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. 18 While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me — one who is eating with me.” 19 They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely not I?” 20 “It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me. 21 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.”

22 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.” 23 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. 25 “I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.” 26 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

27 “You will all fall away,” Jesus told them, “for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ 28 But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” 29 Peter declared, “Even if all fall away, I will not.” 30 “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “today — yes, tonight — before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.” 31 But Peter insisted emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the others said the same.

Key points:

1. The Last Supper marks the transition from the old covenant to the new covenant.
2. The new covenant is superior to the old covenant in every way.
3. In the new covenant, our sins are truly removed forever through Christ's sacrifice.
4. The law of God is written on our hearts and minds in the new covenant.

5. The Holy Spirit dwells in every believer, empowering us to serve and obey God.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding the Last Supper as the initiation of the new covenant change your perspective on communion?
2. The teaching mentions that the new covenant is superior to the old covenant. What are some specific ways this superiority impacts our relationship with God?
3. Reflect on the idea that our sins are "truly removed forever" in the new covenant. How does this differ from the old covenant, and what implications does it have for our daily lives?
4. The teaching discusses how the law is now written on our hearts and minds. How have you experienced this internal prompting towards obedience in your own life?
5. How does the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in every believer empower us differently compared to the old covenant? Share an example of how you've experienced the Spirit's power in your life.
6. Bret mentioned three key aspects of the new covenant (sins removed, law written on hearts, Spirit indwelling). Which of these resonates most with you right now, and why?
7. How does understanding the new covenant change our approach to evangelism and sharing our faith with others?

Practical Applications:

1. Spend time this week meditating on one of the key aspects of the new covenant (sins forgiven, law on hearts, Spirit indwelling). Journal about how this truth impacts your daily life.
2. Before taking communion next time, reflect on its significance as a celebration of the new covenant. How might this change your approach to this sacrament?
3. Identify an area in your life where you struggle with guilt or condemnation. Practice applying the truth of complete forgiveness in the new covenant to this situation.
4. Look for opportunities this week to rely on the Holy Spirit's power rather than your own strength. At the end of the week, share with the group how this impacted your actions and attitudes.

5. Choose a non-believer in your life and commit to praying for them daily, asking the Holy Spirit to work in their life and give you opportunities to share about the new covenant.
6. Prayer Focus: Thank God for the new covenant and its benefits. Ask for a deeper understanding and experience of living as new covenant people, empowered by the Holy Spirit to live for God's glory.