



Church of God Sunday School

TWO SACRED ORDINANCES: FEET WASHING AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-20; John 13:1-30

What is a sacred ordinance? A sacred ordinance is an established religious observance that has been instituted or approved of by the Lord. God wants the church to do these things.

Jesus and twelve of His disciples, the Apostles, came to Jerusalem in remembrance of the Passover. Jesus knew that the time for Him to die to fulfill God's plan of salvation for mankind was near. In His last few hours upon the earth, before He went to the Cross, He wanted to spend time with the twelve Apostles so that they would be prepared to carry on the work of God.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (unleavened bread is bread made with no yeast), Jesus told Peter and John to go into the city to prepare the Passover meal. He told them they would meet a man carrying a pitcher of water and they should follow him to the house that he entered. There they would meet the owner of the house, and he would show them a large upper room where Jesus and the twelve Apostles could eat the Passover meal.

Peter and John did find the man, and they followed him. The owner did have a large upper room already furnished and prepared, just as Jesus had said. The two Apostles began to get the meal ready. In the evening, all twelve Apostles and Jesus came together to eat it.

Jesus rose from supper and took a towel and tied it around His waist. Then He poured water into a pan and began to wash the feet of the Apostles. He dried their feet with the towel.

When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter asked Him if He was going to wash His feet too. (Peter did not think that Jesus should be doing that.) Jesus said that what He was doing, Peter did not understand then, but he would understand later. When Peter said that Jesus would never wash his feet, Jesus said, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." Peter did not want to be left out, so he said, "Lord, not my feet only, but [wash] also my hands and my head."

Jesus told the Apostles that He knew their bodies were clean and that they had washed before supper;

but there was one Apostle among them whose heart was not clean, and only Jesus knew who he was. He was Judas Iscariot.

After Jesus finished washing the Apostles' feet, He sat back down and asked them: "Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. . . . The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him."

By washing their feet, Jesus was taking the humble part of a servant and showing them how to treat each other. He wanted them to know that they were all equal in the sight of God. There was not one of them more important than the rest. Jesus wanted them (and us) to remember to be humble and to serve others. There is a blessing in serving others. Jesus said, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

After having washed the Apostles' feet, and when the Passover supper was over, Jesus took the unleavened bread, blessed it, broke it, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then He passed the bread around to the Apostles, telling them to eat it.

Next, Jesus took a cup of grape juice, blessed it, and said, "Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament [or the new covenant], which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (A covenant is an agreement, or a promise, between two or more persons. In this case, the new covenant is between God and man.)

The bread was not really Jesus' body and the juice was not really Jesus' blood. They were only symbols. Jesus told them to eat the bread and drink the juice in remembrance of His



blood that would be shed on the Cross at His death for their sins and for the sins of the whole world. This sacred ordinance is known as the Lord's Supper.

Now, for there to be a *new covenant*, there had to be an *old covenant* first. Under the old covenant, God promised that men's sins would be forgiven if they would shed the blood of certain animals. (A shed blood sacrifice is the only thing God will accept for committed sins.) God wanted to make a better covenant than the old covenant of animal sacrifices for sin, so He made a new covenant with a better Sacrifice—Jesus. Jesus willingly shed His blood on the Cross for man's sin. The old covenant was done away with when Jesus died on the Cross. Now we live under the new covenant, the new promise.

Under the new covenant, or New Testament, our part of the agreement is to be sorry for disobeying God and committing sins, to believe that Jesus died for our sins, and then ask God to forgive them and believe that

He will. Then God will take our sins away. This is a much better covenant for us than the old one.

After Jesus had given these two sacred ordinances to the disciples, they all sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

Note: There is one more ordinance that the Church of God observes. It is water baptism by immersion. This is an outward act which signifies that you have already had your sins forgiven and you are now living a new life in Christ. Water baptism was already in force, before Christ instituted these two sacred ordinances.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you . . ."*

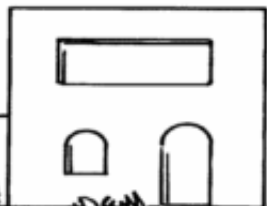
—John 13:34

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Jesus sent Peter and John to the city to prepare for the Passover meal. He told them to follow a man carrying a jar of water. He would show them a large room where they could meet. Everything happened as Jesus said. Jesus and the 12 disciples sat down to dinner. Jesus said that one of them, who "dipped his food in the same bowl" as He, would betray Him. After dinner they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

Find the words that are underlined. They are forward, backward, up and down and diagonal.



J	E	S	U	S	J	T	O	L	D	M
S	M	E	A	L	O	A	B	W	W	A
C	A	N	Y	P	H	D	F	H	A	N
P	E	T	E	R	N	D	O	E	T	E
E	I	M	E	E	T	I	L	R	E	L
C	R	M	J	P	N	A	L	E	R	A
S	A	J	P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R
S	M	O	O	R	R	N	W	O	D	G
H	A	P	P	E	N	E	D	B	T	E
C	G	N	I	H	T	Y	R	E	V	E
D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	R	S
D	I	P	P	E	D	I	N	N	E	R
F	S	A	N	G	Z	M	Q	N	T	T
B	O	W	L	L	Y	O	U	B	R	W
V	A	O	B	H	L	U	D	C	A	O
K	B	O	D	B	E	T	R	A	Y	H
M	O	U	N	T	O	L	I	V	E	S



Jesus Washed His Disciples' Feet

Feet Washing



Across

1. It was time for the Feast of Unleavened _____.
6. Feet washing and the Lord's Supper are called _____.
7. After supper, Jesus washed the disciples' _____.

Down

2. Another word for Jesus' disciples: _____
3. The disciples drank this: _____
4. Unleavened bread is missing this: _____
5. This disciple didn't want his feet washed: _____

