

We call it: "The Last Supper." And it is well named. It was the last meal that Jesus had with His people, His friends, His inner circle. It was the final time, after years of being with them, that they would be together before He died. And so, as you could imagine, Jesus needed to impress upon them some crucial spiritual ideas that would sustain them after He was gone. Do you remember what HE talked about? What was so important that He would use His last evening with the disciples talking about? I want to make that list with you this morning and then see what that list ought to mean to us as followers of Him.

1. The Value of the New Covenant

- a. **Matthew 26:26-29** – As they sat observing an Old Law feast, remembering the blood of the lamb, He speaks of His body and His blood and the new covenant and the kingdom, the glory of what God would establish and how His sacrifice would initiate it.

2. The Hurt of Sin Amongst Us

- a. **Matthew 26:20-25** – How sad that Jesus uses part of His last meal with the disciples laying this out for them to consider. There was grief and sadness. He had to reveal that before the group, astonishing them, and proclaim some very sobering words.

*Well, if all we had were the synoptic Gospels, this would be about all we get (Mt. 26:30) – the text takes them straight from the memorial to the garden. But then comes John. John's gospel tells of this same event, but not in 10 verses, but in 155 verses! Notice **John 13:1-2a, 14:31, 18:1**. And it has a very, behind the scenes weight to it. I mean, he doesn't even mention the memorial of the Lord's Supper! That was already established. He does mention the event with Judas, which we already documented, but John (who was there) also adds many more incredible things Jesus said and did. Here are a few.*

3. The Importance of Servitude

- a. **John 13:3-5, 12-17** – What an amazing way to use your last moments? He demonstrates humility to one another, service, kindness. He commends them to do the same to one another and carry on His work of doing for others.

4. The Benefit of the Holy Spirit

- a. **John 14:26, 15:26-27, 16:12-15** – There was so much more to say! So He talked about, over and over again, the revelation by the Holy Spirit. That the Holy Spirit would come to these men and guide and direct them and help them do their work for the King.

5. The Need to Bearing Fruit

- a. **John 15:1-8** – Their relationship had a purpose. Jesus connected Himself to them so that they could be trained, and grow, and produce great fruit for the Father. As He had done so would they continue to do – bear fruit and “prove to be My disciples.”

6. The Strength in Spiritual Unity

- a. **John 17:11-12, 20-23** – Unity so critical! Sticking together. Being one in Christ. Connected to the Father in who we are and therefore one another as His children.

Jesus talking about the same things he'd been talking about His whole life. He didn't turn on some spiritual switch and say, “okay, enough about the stuff we always talk about, it's time to get serious.” This was a continuation right to the end of what mattered to Him.

1. Covenant and Kingdom – (**Matt. 16:18-21** – the new way and people, in His kingdom, by His death)
2. Sin Amongst Us – (**Matt. 4:17; 18:4-7** – warnings against pride and sin and hurting others)
3. Servitude – (**Matthew 9:35-36** – He served and taught and felt compassion for so many)
4. Holy Spirit Benefit – (**Matt. 3:11** – Holy Spirit coming – **Matt. 12:32** – obey the Spirit!)
5. Bearing Fruit – (**Matt. 3:8-10** – of repentance ; **Matt. 13:23** – producing for God!)
6. Spiritual Unity – (**Matt. 18:15-20** – whole text is about sticking together and agreeing on Truth!)

Question: If you knew you were at your last supper, what would you talk about. You were in a room, at dinner, with your inner circle, the people who mattered most to you in this life, the people who you loved most in this life, and you knew that this was your last chance to talk with them. (Per human nature – there might be an impetuous Peter, a lovely John and maybe even a Judas there). But you love them. You knew that after this, you'd be gone and they'd live on. What would you talk about?

You might say, "I don't know, I'd like to think it would be Jesus and the Gospels." Well, I can do a little better than that. I know exactly what you'd talk about. The same thing as I would talk about... the things we've been talking about all along! That's the way it works. We might say some spiritual thing here or there, but the message, the legacy, the conversations at the end, will not be some switch we flip, but will be more of what we've discussed leading up to it.

Examples: Man before low probability surgery – Astros

Man on his death bed – Branson

And on our part, at a lost family member's death bed - his storied career.

Why weren't we all talking about these Jesus centered things?! Because we didn't spend much time talking to one another about them in life, so that's what we know.

So 1) If we want to know Jesus and really be connected with Him and 2) when the days draw closed and we want to be talking to our family and friends and people about things that matters... start now.

The New Testament epistles are jam packed full of these 6 ideas! It's almost like they took what was important to Christ and made it important to them! And not just death bed conversations, or last meals before separation, but as a life style... a brand, a message. Just look at **Ephesians**.

1. Covenant and Kingdom – (**Eph. 1:7-10** – The blood, the administration, the fellowship with God)
2. Personal Betrayal – (**Eph. 5:6-12** – Sin being terrible and needing to shine truth on it)
3. Servitude – (**Eph. 4:16** church, **5:22-6:4** family, **6:10** God – we live to serve others around us)
4. Holy Spirit Benefit – (**Eph. 1:13-14, 2:18; 3:5** – The Holy Spirit's power and revelation)
5. Bearing Fruit – (**Eph. 4:22-24** – new you connected with God / **4:32-5:2** – new purpose!)
6. Spiritual Unity – (**Eph. 4:1-6** – Not divided or dissenting, but diligent to work together in Truth)

Be about these things. Yes, there will still be talk about our golf swings, or the Cowboys, or the kids, or our jobs, or any number of 100 other things, but find places for these topics in your daily conversations with the people you love. Think about your last supper, what would you be NEEDFUL to talk about? And what would be COMFORTABLE to talk about? If these things aren't on those lists, identify the true nature and passions of Jesus and infuse them into your relationships and life today.