

### 336: June 9, 16; Let this cup pass from me (New Testament Weeks 23-24)

John 13-17 (Home Study) Farewell Discourse)

Take home nugget: Lovingly talk to those you love. Focus on relationships. Jesus models effective relationship skills powerfully in these chapters. Let's carefully see what Jesus does and learn from him. While we are at it, note themes of John.

13: Jesus shows his love with action and service (washing feet). Jesus humbles himself, not only meeting his disciples where they are, but getting their attention by humbling himself to a shocking degree. Having set an example, he tells them to love. Love each other. Love each other in a way that the world can recognize. Let love be the marker of discipleship.

14: Jesus explains who he is and how he will help his disciples. He is leaving, which will be hard for them, but he is leaving to "prepare the way" for them. He again emphasizes \*doing\* works of love. Jesus promises that if we do and become love, we will have communion with him and God. We won't be lonely, because we dwell in love. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you"

31: more example. Jesus says the Father knows he loves him because he obeys his commandments.

15: The two great commandments are embodied in Christ and his example. This is the ultimate, summation commandment "Love one another as I have loved you". Note emphasis on actions: IF you DO the things I have commanded you, you are my friends. Jesus clearly communicates his expectations, and promises close relationship and support. 16: Go out and bear fruit, fruit that remains: Sustainable goodness. Live for/invest in goodness and relationship.

16: Sadness and joy. Grief work. Pain, meaning, acceptance, perspective. "You will be filled with grief, but your grief will become joy for you. When she is giving birth, a woman has pain because her hour has come, but when she gives birth to a child she no longer remembers the trial because of the joy that a child has been born to the world... your joy will be full"  
33 "You might have peace in me. In the world you will have trial, but cheer up! I am victorious over the world!" (I can bear

my testimony of these principles as I taste joy and peace independent of circumstance. I can say “I am well” almost no matter what).

17: Beautiful, touching, intimate prayer (Read it). Love the idea of sanctifying ourselves for others... but we deserve it too!  
Refrain: be one, be one, be one. Makes me think of 3 Ne. 19 and D&C 45.

Themes: Jesus’ foreknowledge; he is in control of everything (we will see this even more starkly during our next reading). We repeatedly read “I will tell you before it happens” “I am doing this so you know I was expected it’ etc. We see echoes of the Prologue Hymn. Jesus has loved “his own” to the end, and is returning to God. Jesus is the “Man sent from Heaven” and is about to return.

Listener questions (feel free to email or post them in the Facebook group!)

Bob questions: Why is there no Communion in John's Last Supper, while the rest of the book is so full of Communion imagery (Ch 6, for example)?

What did John's author intend his readers to understand by the term "my commandments" in John 14 and 15?

John misses dinner: John misses both baptism and last supper. My best understanding is that the details in the Synoptics have been saturated through the entire gospel.

Commandments in John: Similarly, the commandments in general and the two great commandments in particular become an extended discourse on love in John. To follow the commandments is to follow Jesus’ example, to love as Jesus loved, to be one with Jesus and the Father.

I was struck by the parallels between John 17, the “intercessory prayer” and the Lord’s prayer  
“The messenger has become the message”

Conclusion: Explain triangulation (Jesus models this well, focuses on relationship, encouragement)

Positive parenting and the reward of attention.

## **June 16; Let this cup pass from me (New Testament Week 24)**

Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 18 (Arrest/Gethsemane)

Come, Follow Me:

1. Prayer
2. Devotional
3. Lesson
  - a. Gethsemane
  - b. Betrayal
  - c. Sacrament
  - d. Watching together
  - e. Reading the gospels together
4. Reading review:
5. nugget
6. Preview
7. Conclusion

Come, Follow Me:

Prayer: No more important prayer than the ones we have modeled in this reading. Sacrament and Gethsemane.

Devotional: With humble courage, search yourself and explore what you want, what you hope. Look at your actions, and see where you put your time, what you invest in. Learn yourself. Once you know

yourself, search to discover what God's will is. Then continue the process of alignment. But allow yourself to have that discussion.

Lesson (Good to focus lessons from most important so you can be sure you get covered what you most want to, then cover other topics, then circle round to most important)

**Gethsemane:** Reverently, carefully explore the elements. Jesus is grieved, even to death. He asks his friends to be with him, watch with him, witness with him. He wrestles and pleads with God. Aligns himself to God's will, at least to a degree. He is disappointed with his friends, who fail him. He gently and sadly wishes they could have done better. He prepares for the end.

**Betrayal:** We have several models of betrayal in this reading. Jesus' people betray him. But the greatest betrayals are those that are the most intimate. The most memorable is that Judas betrays Jesus. For greed, it seems. Perhaps there is more to it (Gospel of Judas!) Albert Schweitzer, Judas wanted to force God's hand? But Peter betrays Jesus too. Did Jesus command Peter to betray him, rather than predict? Perhaps just suggest? Did he simply know too well Peter's enthusiasm, a passionate spirit with inadequate fleshly followthrough? Then Peter betrays himself. The takehome message here is that we need to strengthen ourselves, so that we don't betray ourselves and each other. More accurately, we need to develop a daily practice of humble repentance, realignment, and spiritual strengthening so our betrayals get smaller and less frequent, and more quickly corrected.

**Sacrament** (What are our sacramental shifts?) How do we take what something used to mean, and apply it to the needs of today and tomorrow? How do we use covenant and remembrance to transform ourselves, each other, the world?

**Watching together:** Could you not watch with me one hour? "Sitting with you" "Holding space" "Ministry of presence". Having enough composure to not need to say anything. Able to just BE with

someone else. Witness with them. Meet them where they are, wherever that may be, grief or joy, excitement or depression.

Reading the gospels together

**Let this cup... sacrament and Gethsemane prayers**

	Mark	Matthew	Luke	John
Sacrament	<p>14:22 <sup>d</sup>And as they were eating, he took bread, and after <sup>e</sup>blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; <sup>f</sup>this is my body.” <sup>23</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had <sup>a</sup>given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. <sup>24</sup> And he said to them, <sup>f</sup>“This is my <sup>h</sup>blood of the <sup>3</sup>covenant, which is poured out for <sup>i</sup>many.</p>	<p>26:26 <sup>v</sup>Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and <sup>w</sup>after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; <sup>x</sup>this is my body.” <sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he <sup>y</sup>had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup> for <sup>x</sup>this is my <sup>z</sup>blood of the <sup>3</sup>covenant, which is poured out for <sup>a</sup>many <sup>b</sup>for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup> I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink</p>	<p>22:17 And he took a cup, and <sup>h</sup>when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. <sup>18</sup> <sup>i</sup>For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine <sup>a</sup>until the kingdom of God comes.” <sup>19</sup> <sup>i</sup>And he took bread, and <sup>h</sup>when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, <sup>k</sup>“This is my body...</p>	<p>6:53 So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of <sup>i</sup>the Son of Man and drink his blood, you <sup>k</sup>have no life in you. <sup>54</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood <sup>h</sup>has eternal life, and <sup>m</sup>I will raise him up on the last day.</p>

		it new with you <sup>c</sup> in my Father's kingdom.”		
Gethsemane	<p><sup>33</sup> And he took with him <sup>t</sup>Peter and James and John, and began <sup>u</sup>to be greatly distressed and troubled. <sup>34</sup> And he said to them, <sup>v</sup>“My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and <sup>w</sup>watch.” <sup>4</sup> <sup>35</sup> And going a little farther, he fell on the ground <sup>x</sup>and prayed that, if it were possible, <sup>y</sup>the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> And he said, <sup>z</sup>“Abba, Father, <sup>a</sup>all things are possible for you. Remove <sup>b</sup>this cup from me. <sup>c</sup>Yet not what I will, but what you will.”</p>	<p><sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, <sup>v</sup>“My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and <sup>a</sup>watch <sup>4</sup>with me.” <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther he fell on his face <sup>r</sup>and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let <sup>s</sup>this cup pass from me; <sup>t</sup>nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” <sup>42</sup> Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, <sup>u</sup>your will be done.”</p>	<p><sup>1</sup> And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and <sup>v</sup>knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, <sup>w</sup>“Father, if you are willing, remove <sup>x</sup>this cup from me. <sup>y</sup>Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”</p>	<p><sup>18:11</sup> So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; <sup>x</sup>shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”</p>

Reading review: (This is sacred ground. These chapters are so powerful)

Mark 14: Passover: Like independence day, so really big deal, nationalistic fervor heightened.

Such a pity we don't know the name of the woman who anointed Jesus! "Wherever the gospel is declared in all the world, what she has done will be told in memory of her" (John says Mary of Bethany did this)

Jesus passion happening at the same time as "when the Passover lamb is sacrificed" is significant.

Disciples humbly each ask "Is it I?" we don't know what the future will bring, and all have our breaking point

Sacrament

Peter's denial foretold

Gethsemane (olive press)

Arrest "let the scriptures be fulfilled"

Jesus interrogated (in the gospels it is for blasphemy, but the "false witness" of destruction of the temple is highly likely the main catalyst, and Jesus was clearly crucified for being a revolutionary, someone who claimed to be king of the Jews).

Peter denies Jesus "he broke down and wept" (I know how those moments feel, making our very best commitments and promises, losing ourselves in the heat of the moment, then waking up and breaking down)

Matthew 26:

Plot to kill Jesus

Jesus anointed at Bethany

Judas betrays Jesus

Preparation for the Passover

Passover and betrayal foretold

Sacrament "He instills the bread and wine with new meaning in a covenant context" wayment notes

Denial foretold (Peter even more emphatic, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you”  
Gethsemane: “Were you not strong enough to watch with me one hour?” (That’s the target!)  
“If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink from it, your will be done” (That’s the other way for a cup to be taken away, see it all the way through)

Arrest

Jesus interrogated

Peter denies Jesus

Luke 22:

Plot to kill Jesus

Preparation for the Passover

From “no room at the inn” to “the upper guest chamber” (same Greek word)

Sacrament (bring up no Atonement!!) For Luke it seems, Jesus’ death was the ultimate miscarriage of justice that motivates us to repent, the innocent prophet wrongfully executed, rather than a vicarious sacrifice for sin.

“Greatest among you is one who serves” (parallels to John)

I am in your midst as one who serves. You are the ones who have stayed with me in my trials. I covenant with you, even as my Father covenanted with me, a kingdom”

SO touching! Jesus prays for Peter, that his faith not fail “When you have returned, strengthen your brothers and sisters”

Did Jesus advocate violence? Get a sword/two swords/it is enough/put down the sword (perhaps symbolic, a warning? That the time is not yet, but it will come soon?)

Note Jesus control in Gethsemane. Instead of expressing distress, he encourages disciples. (Discuss “bloody sweat” passage)



## Arrest

John 18:

SO different! I'm calling this section "Jesus arrests the soldiers!"

Again, theme "Jesus knew everything that was going to happen"

He's in charge, he speaks first: Who are you looking for?

Jesus of Nazareth

"I am"

They seek the human Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus declares himself the God of Israel.

"Will I not drink the cup that my Father gave me?"

This is powerful, and also a near perfect reversal of Mark's tradition.

Peter denies Jesus

Caiaphas questions Jesus

Jesus delivered to Pilate

Are you a king?

My kingdom is not of this world (This narrative accurately gets at the heart of what happened around Jesus' crucifixion: He declared the inbreaking kingdom of God; He was executed as king of the Jews.

What is truth? Such a great question (Devout agnostic).

Nugget: The Gospel of John and history (powerful theologically, you can't help but notice how different it is from other gospels! I like to think of it as what Jesus' ministry would have looked like if the

post-resurrection understanding of Jesus were fully incarnate during Jesus' life. So it could be seen as most true theologically, and least true historically. I think that's ok, and I hope you feel the same way. Preview: Pity we are covering key aspects of atonement and resurrection during off weeks! Some of my favorite scriptures of all time. Don't worry; we have you covered! June 23: Home study: Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19 (Crucifixion). June 30, under bishop's direction. Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20-21.

Conclusion: Be patient with yourselves and each other. Getting to "thy will be done/as you desire" is a process that requires time, effort, strengthening, and conversion. It is a task of months, years, a lifetime. We can learn from Peter. When we have repented, returned, been converted, we can strengthen our brothers and sisters.