

Easter Week Epilogues - Monday

Please read Luke 22:14-29 (below) together and then pray, asking God to help us see that he wants to share Jesus' life with us and us to share our lives with him.

When it was time, he sat down, all the apostles with him, and said, "You've no idea how much I have looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I enter my time of suffering. It's the last one I'll eat until we all eat it together in the kingdom of God." Taking the cup, he blessed it, then said, "Take this and pass it among you. As for me, I'll not drink wine again until the kingdom of God arrives."

Taking bread, he blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, given for you. Eat it in my memory."

He did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant written in my blood, blood poured out for you".

"Do you realize that the hand of the one who is betraying me is at this moment on this table? It's true that the Son of Man is going down a path already marked out—no surprises there. But for the one who turns him in, turns traitor to the Son of Man, this is doomsday." They immediately became suspicious of each other and began quizzing one another, wondering who might be about to do this.

Within minutes they were bickering over who of them would end up the greatest. But Jesus intervened: "Kings like to throw their weight around and people in authority like to give themselves fancy titles. It's not going to be that way with you. Let the senior among you become like the junior; let the leader act the part of the servant.

"Who would you rather be: the one who eats the dinner or the one who serves the dinner? You'd rather eat and be served, right? But I've taken my place among you as the one who serves. And you've stuck with me through thick and thin. Now I confer on you the royal authority my Father conferred on me so you can eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and be strengthened as you take up responsibilities among the congregations of God's people".

You can watch a video by Peter as he reflects on what we've just been reading – you'll find it at www.facebook.com/muckamorepc

Or here's his thoughts 'on paper'...

Dropping hints to people doesn't always work – have you ever noticed that? No matter how big the hints might be, people can often take a totally different meaning out of what we're trying to say.

I can't help but think that that's exactly what happened during the Passover celebration Jesus had with his disciples just before he went to the cross. He dropped several hints, trying to tell them in a round about way what he was about to go through but they missed the whole point.

"You've no idea how much I've looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I enter my time of suffering. I'll not eat it again until it finds fulfilment in the Kingdom of God. I'll not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God arrives".

And then he went on to talk about traitors – someone was going to betray him. And then to cap it all, he said “You’ve stuck with me through thick and thin. Now I confer on you the royal authority my Father conferred on me so you can eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and be strengthened as you take up responsibilities among the congregations of God’s people”.

And what did the disciples take out of all that?

It’s only a matter of time till Jesus establishes his Kingdom. It’s as we thought all along – he’s going to re-establish David’s throne and rule over Israel once more – and we’re going to govern with him. He’s giving us responsibility – he said it himself. Yes, it’s only a matter of time until he takes the throne and gets rid of the Romans and breaks the stranglehold of the religious leaders. Did you see the way he took them to task in the Temple? What about all the times he made a fool of them in answering their questions? Yes, it’s only a matter of time now; only a matter of time.

They’d missed the point. Peter was ready to die for Jesus in this political struggle; prepared to be a martyr; prepared to put his life on the line to further the cause – but he’d misunderstood the cause.

People still do, today. Even with all the knowledge we have of Jesus and his teaching; even though we now know he wasn’t talking politics, nor religion, but relationship – people still make the mistake the cause. We fail to see that Jesus wants to share his life with us and us with him. We fail to see that he wants to have our company in his kingdom. We fail to see that he wants to give us a special place among God’s people.

We’re happy with earth; but he wants to give us heaven. Only a matter of time till we’re successful... till we’ve enough to take life easy... till we’ve earned God’s favour... We’ve missed the point.

Jesus wants to bring us into a new and living relationship with God through the breaking of his body and the shedding of his blood as an atoning sacrifice for sin. Unlike Peter, Jesus fully understood the implications of what he was saying – he was indeed willing to die for us; and he did. All so that we could join him in his kingdom and rule with him forever. It’s only a matter of time until Jesus comes again – will we be in his Kingdom – or not?