

Wednesday 27 March 2024 Devotional based on Luke 22

Song: He Will Hold Me Fast by Keith & Kristyn Getty  
<https://youtu.be/936BapRFHaQ?si=81dxUM4hcpeDR27J>

*James 1: 12 "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him"*

Jesus longs to have some quality time with his disciples before He is going to suffer. The opportune time comes at the day of the Passover meal. The day on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus instructs Peter and John to make preparations for the meal. They are not very sure what to do exactly, so they ask Jesus the particulars. I imagine them using the old fashioned phrase: "I *pray*, sir, where do you want us to prepare for it?"

Jesus' answer is very specific. They will first see a man who carries a jar, they are to follow that man to the house he enters and then ask the owner about a room and he will show it. What a clear way of receiving guidance from the Master!

Jesus longs for communion. He wants to share his upcoming trial with his disciples. But can they really stand by him? Can they stand the test and stay faithful to Jesus when under trial? Can we?

Jesus gives the disciples good encouragement in this chapter. He tells them that they are the ones who stood by him in trials. They have shown that they were faithful and Jesus rewards them a kingdom with great privileges: eating and drinking at His table and reigning with Him.

What's more, Jesus has prayed for the disciples that their faith would not fail. And He tells them to continue to do so: "Pray that you will not fall into temptation". Jesus shows them how that works. He is about to go under trial and desperately needs to pray. He fervently pleads with his Father for the cup of suffering to be taken away from him. As He pours out his heart to the Father - and angel from heaven strengthens him - He then is ready to pour out his life for humanity.

There is a special power at work when we ask Jesus for help. We become connected to the Divine. And when we fear that our faith will fail, we have the assurance that Christ prays for us. He will hold us fast!