

## *Chapter 3*

# *Holy Thursday*

*Preparation:* Read Luke 22:1-65

There is a story about a high school student who finds himself once again kicked out of an expensive boarding school. Instead of going back to his parents and accepting the consequences of his actions, he avoids returning home and spends his days trying to find joy roaming New York City. He ends up feeling only hurt and alone. Like this young man, our pride often prevents us from humbling ourselves, admitting that we are sinners and running back to the loving arms with which God waits for us. We would rather run from God than admit that we need His forgiveness and His healing. In this chapter we will encounter a number of individuals who struggle with their need for God's healing.

*Entering into Christ's Passion:*

## *The Judas Shuffle*

- 1     **Read Luke 22:3-6.** What do we catch Judas doing in this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2     We often betray God for things that are fleeting and insignificant. What are some of those things we choose every day over God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3     **Read stories of Judas, Luke 22:3-6, Matthew 27:3-5, and Peter, Luke 22:54-62, John 21:4-7.** What similarities do you see in Peter and Judas? What are the differences?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4     What was the major difference between Judas and Peter? Do you think the same forgiveness was available to Judas as was to Peter, or was Judas' situation different? Why or why not?

## *Dining With Christ*

“In the Mediterranean world of the first century, particularly in Israel, meals were a social event whose significance went far beyond the need to satisfy physical hunger. In a culture that had no television or radio, meals broke up the monotony of the day. It was the primary occasion for social gathering, and thus meals were laden with social stipulations...Meals were usually eaten with one’s extended family, and any invitation to dinner was a symbolic welcome into the family. Meals were a powerful token of friendship, intimacy and trust. To betray one with whom you had shared a meal was an unspeakable crime in the ancient world. To have a meal together meant more than shared food; it gave shared identity.” Tim Gray, *Mission of the Messiah*

- 5 **Read Luke 15:2 and 5:29-30.** Meals play a significant role in Luke’s Gospel and in the ancient world. Here we find Jesus dining with people who many would have found to be less than desirable diner companion. Why exactly do you think the Pharisees are so appalled by Jesus’ choice of dining companions?
  
- 6 Do you think it’s difficult for our culture to understand the significance of meals in the time of Christ which the above passage discusses? Why or why not?

