Bible Study 77

May 17th, 2023

 Luke’s Gospel (continued)

Chapter 22 - It is the beginning of the trials and death of Jesus and it begins with Judas going to the Chief Priests and Officers of the Temple. Jesus sends his disciples into Jerusalem to prepare for the Passover. They rent a large upper room and make the preparations.

We are familiar with the words he uses over the Bread and Wine: “This is my Body; and this is my Blood.”

In v.24 there is the dispute among the apostles as to who is the greatest. We hear this in a previous Gospel led by James and John. This time Jesus preaches to his disciples about service.

“Who is greater than one who sits at the table or the one who serves? I tell you he who serves.” There is a brief mention of ‘betrayal’ but not the long account in Matthew of dipping bread in the dish.

There is a prediction of Peter denying Christ but, on the whole, the ‘Last Supper’ account is short. By v.30 Jesus is already at the Garden of Lives. The ‘Sleeping Apostles’ account is also limited to just one time.

Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss and Jesus is arrested. A strange event happens where the servant of the High Priest has his ear cut off. There is a mention of swords in v.38. This seems a contradiction.

Notice the reference to ‘darkness’ in v.58, a play on dualism often found in Luke and Paul’s writing. V.54 has a long account of the “Denial of Peter.’ It twins with Jesus announcing that “Before the cock crows you shall deny me three times.” in v.34. Luke seems to have foreknowledge of the event because he states that Peter will recover and go on to encourage and rally the others.

The Gospel now jumps to the soldiers mocking Jesus. In v.63, Jesus is brought before the Council in the morning. Note that Luke does not use the word ‘Sanhedrin’ maybe because his Gospel is no speaking to Jews.

Chapter 23 is Jesus’ trail before Pilate. The first claim is that “he opposes paying taxes to Caesar.” Next that he “claims to be a King.” It is the one Gospel where Jesus is sent to trial with Herod. Notice how Luke is forced to explain things such as Jesus being a Galilean. Herod sends him back to Pilate dressed as a king with a purple robe.

The crowd cry out for ‘Barabbas’ and again, Luke explains the connection. In Luke it is the crowd that bay for crucifixion and the death of Jesus. There is no washing of the hands. Jesus is taken away in v.26. Jesus is taken directly to be crucified.

Notice Simon of Cyrene is made to carry the cross of Jesus. The women play a more significant role in following Jesus and wailing. Again, there is prediction in v.28 of the destruction of Jerusalem. The crucifixion in Luke is rapid with “Father forgive them” at the beginning, not the end.

Much is made of the term: “The Kind of the Jews” as the reason Jesus is put to death perhaps because the Gentiles would not understand ‘blasphemy.’ There is a dialogue between the thieves put to death with Jesus, v.39. Again in v.44 we get the ‘darkness.’ Jesus dies between noon and 3:00pm crying out ”a, Father into your hands I commit my spirit.” It is Centurion who witnesses his death.

Jesus’ burial is brief. Joseph of Arimathea takes the body and places it in his own tomb. The stone is rolled over it. The women stand watch.

Read 22 & 23