

## MEDITATION – PALM/PASSION SUNDAY – March 28, 2010

He said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.”

What surprises me and even causes me to catch my breath are the words “eagerly desires.” Jesus eagerly desired to share the Holy Covenant meal with his disciples. Could he be just as eagerly desiring to share this holy meal with us?

To answer this question let’s look more closely with whom Jesus eagerly desired to eat with in his ministry both then and now.

Jesus eagerly desires to eat with outsiders. Eagerly desired describes the emotion of the Father who waits for the return of his lost and social outsider son to eat a reconciliation meal with him. Through out Luke Jesus welcomes the outsider: the woman who was a sinner who came and anointed Jesus with oil; the centurion, a gentile and enemy of Jewish people, who asked Jesus to come and heal his slave which Jesus did; and He had dinner with Levi the tax collector, a collaborator of the enemy.

If we feel like outsiders to the church due to sin, society status, or being a victim of societies sin of labeling you an outsider and not welcomed in the church; or you feel lost to God in your grief, negativity, and anger; or you just don’t feel good enough to come to the table and share in

communion with Jesus. Know this, Jesus eagerly desires to eat this covenant meal with you.

Jesus eagerly desires to eat with those who don't understand all that is going on. His disciples had heard that Jesus was going to suffer and die and be raised in three days. But they don't yet understand what is coming and why it had to happen.

If you don't understand parts of your faith, or have questions regarding our Christian beliefs, Jesus eagerly desires to eat with you at this covenant meal as he did those thousand of years ago with his bewildered disciples.

Jesus eagerly desired to eat with the one who betrayed him, Judas. I think that Judas, of all the disciples knew who Jesus was and he was tired and frustrated waiting for Jesus to overthrow the government, so he showed Jesus' hand by leading the temple officials right to Jesus. But what happened? Roman was not overthrown. Jesus was arrested and killed.

So those of us who seem to know the way of God and try to manipulate scenes and events, and those of us who say we are followers of Jesus but live contrary to that belief, Jesus eagerly desires to eat with us. We who are also ordinary faithful followers, Jesus invites to sit down with him at this table and eagerly desires to eat with us as he did with Judas.

Jesus eagerly desires to eat with the ordinary people who daily followed him with their lives. The fishermen disciples, who walked daily with their Master, listened to his teachings, and followed as best as they could his directions, were the ones that Jesus couldn't wait to sit down and share the covenant meal with. We who are ordinary faithful followers of today are invited by Jesus to come to this table and eat with him.

Yes, Jesus eagerly desires to eat with each of us and all of us so he can show us God's new covenant that was made possible through his sacrifice on the cross. This covenant is not dependant on us humans as the Old Covenant was. No this new covenant is dependant only on God through Jesus Christ. All we have to do is to come to the table and recognize the Jesus in, and with us, and eat with him.

Come all to the table for our Lord Jesus invites you and eagerly desires to eat with you. The preparations are complete so come and eat at the Lord's Table for he has called you and eagerly desires to feast with you.

