

SEATED AT THE TABLE –  
Mark 14:17-25

INTRODUCTION:

1. Read Mark 14:17-25
2. The Holy Communion today is a remembrance of the supper given by Christ to His apostles.
  - (1) It is “in remembrance of me.” (Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:24-25).
  - (2) Christ is truly present as He drinks it with us, “new in the kingdom of God” which is His Church, Mk. 14:25.
3. The Last Supper is a meal situated in the midst of conflict; Jesus names the conflicts in the room and then gives bread, the gift of forgiveness. Jesus does not give retribution or punishment, He gives forgiveness.
4. In remembering this reality, we are called to re-member or reframe our world and our actions so that we may do likewise.
5. In this lesson we examine Jesus’ words at the Last Supper. We do this to increase our understanding of the relationship that exists between conflict transformation and the Holy Communion.

DISCUSSION: Let us therefore consider-

- I. The context of the Last Supper
  1. During Passover – remembrance of slavery and exodus from Egypt
    - (1) “Passover” – Killing of the first born of Egyptians.
    - (2) “When I see the blood, I will pass over you.”
    - (3) Ex. 12:12
    - (4) Ex. 12:26-27
    - (5) Enslavement and freedom are the motifs of the Passover; Enslavement and freedom are the motifs of the last Supper.
    - (6) Enslavement to sin and freedom from sin.
    - (7) John 8:34
    - (8) Rom. 6:18
  2. In Jerusalem
    - (1) The city that kills the prophets
      - a. Matt. 22:37

b. Mark 10:33

(2) The context of the Last Supper is conflict recognized historically through the celebration of Passover and the present reality of Jesus and His disciples in Jerusalem.

3. A Meal – time of nourishment, relationship and communion.

(1) Jesus eats with sinners and tax collectors

(2) His meals were banquets – recognition of the abundance of creation.

II. Naming the conflicts at the table –

1. One of you will betray me - Mark 14:17-20

2. One of you will deny me – John 13:37-38

3. All of you will desert me – Mark 14:

a. Conflict among the 12 – Matt. 18:1 – Who is the greatest?

b. Jesus moves from the head of the table to the foot of the table and washes the disciples' feet. John 13:4-5.

4. So Jesus under the shadow of the cross, sits at the table and eats His last supper with the man who would betray Him, the man who would deny Him and the others who would desert Him. Jesus names them!

5. Justice requires the naming; Truth requires the naming; Transformation requires the naming.

6. What remains un-named will fester like a disease and destroy body and soul. Healing requires the naming.

III. Giving Bread and Wine

1. He gives them bread and wine. Mark 14:22-24

a. This is my body; this is my blood

b. “the blood of the new covenant

2. The bread is a symbol of God's sustenance of creation, best symbolized by the manna in the wilderness.

3. The wine is a sign of the heavenly banquet; a sign of the new covenant between God and God's people – a covenant of forgiveness and reconciliation.

4. The cup symbolizes the unity of the body in Christ gathered at the table.

5. Jesus names the conflict – not to give retribution or punishment. He names it and gives bread and wine; He gives his life – forgiveness and sustenance.

#### IV. Conclusion and Appeal.

1. The communion table is a banquet of reconciliation. Guilt is named.
2. We see our own guilt and our need for Jesus Christ.
3. We see also how we are to treat others when they are guilty towards us.