

From Rev. Gene’s Perspective:

Lenten Message – part 3 Jesus in the Temple

In each message during Lent, I will be sharing with you a reflection on an event during the last week of Jesus’ earthly life.

The Last Supper

Scripture: When Jesus was eating with his twelve disciples that evening, he said, “One of you will surely hand me over to my enemies.” The disciples were very sad and each one said to Jesus, “Lord, you can’t mean me.” ... Judas said, “Teacher, you surely don’t mean me!” “That’s what you say!” Jesus replied. But later, Judas did betray him. During the meal Jesus some bread in his hands. He blessed it and broke it. Then gave it to his disciples and said, “Take eat, this is my body broken for you.” In like manner he said, “Take this is my blood” Then they sang a hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26.21-30

Commentary: The Passover was the most important religious holiday for Jews and so it was only natural for Jesus and his disciples to gather as a group. In the midst of this religious time, it had to be shocking to the disciples to hear from Jesus that one of them would betray him. Today, it would be as if a divorce was announced at the family Christmas gathering. The betrayal had to really hurt Jesus. The meal continues and Jesus tries to explain to his disciples that this would be their last meal together. It is obvious that the disciples did not really understand what Jesus was saying to them.

Reflection: After all that Judas had seen Jesus do for others, it is hard to believe that he would betray him. It becomes clear however that Judas had decided that Jesus was fulfilling the messianic vision that he had for him. In my opinion, it was not about the money. If Judas was a materialistic person, he clearly would not have joined Jesus in the first place. It is important to note that we can be betrayed only by someone who is close to us and that obviously makes it so difficult to accept. It has to be of some solace however to know that Jesus also knew this very human hurt. The Last Supper is stylized in many paintings, but most important is how it touches us today. It is met to be a time of remembrance and renewal.

May God Bless You,
Rev. Gene

CIRCLE OF CONCERN: – Stephanie Bolander, Carl Brehm, Dorothy Davis, Doris Griffin, Betty Hanson, Al Huffman, Teri Kinsella, Harold Neitzel, Helen May Olsen, Lynae Rothe, Deb Rotschka, Shirley Welsh, Jan Wenman, and Craig West.

Our prayers for Jason Burnett and all people serving in the military.

Our heartfelt prayers and sympathy go out to Stephanie, Tim and Zach Bolander on the loss of Stephanie’s grandmother, Helen Collings, who passed away, March 7th. May they feel the love of Lord and friends during this difficult time.

Church Calendar

Wed. March 10	7:00 PM Lenten Service “How Do I Make Decisions?”
Thurs. March 11	6:30 PM Hand Bell Practice
	7:30 PM Choir Practice
Fri. March 12	6:00 PM Youth Group 30 Hour Famine
Sat. March 13	5:00 PM Youth Group 30 Hour Famine concludes
Sun. March 14	8:30 AM Mission Board Meeting
	8:30 AM Trustee Board Meeting
	9:00 AM Adult Study in Parlor
	10:15 AM Worship Service and Sunday School
Tues. March 16	7:00 PM Diaconate Meeting
Wed. March 17	7:00 PM Lenten Service “How Do I Change?”