

Day 7

GIVE LIKE JESUS

Today is our last day together, and we find ourselves right back where we started this journey . . . *at the TABLE with Jesus.*

Jesus had less than 24 hours until his crucifixion and he spent his last night alive sharing a meal with his friends. Centuries later we refer to this meal as **The Last Supper**. This is the meal that he told his Disciples that he would GIVE his life away so that everyone could find eternal life in him.

Mark 10:43-45

Jesus Teaches the Disciples about Serving.

⁴³ "But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to *SERVE* others and to *GIVE* his life as a ransom for many."

Jesus came to GIVE his life away!

Far too often, we get wrapped up in the miracles, or the parables, or the teachings of Jesus - but the primary reason Jesus came to earth was *"to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Jesus didn't come to be a good teacher. Or a good role model. Or a good storyteller. Jesus came to be our *SAVIOR*. Jesus came to serve you and me, by giving his life as the payment for our sin.

Who would you give your life for? Your family? Your spouse? Your best friend? How about your enemy? Or the person who hated you the most? Would you die for them? Would you sacrifice YOUR life for THEIRS? Probably not . . . and I wouldn't either.

But - Jesus came to GIVE his life away!

For you - and for me - and for anyone who'll receive his gift.

The ultimate act of SERVICE that Jesus performed was GIVING his own life as the payment for our sin.

Let's get back to the meal with Jesus and his friends . . .

This was a special evening. It was the first night of Passover, and this meal started a 7-day celebration for all of God's people. The meal was a reminder of the first passover night centuries ago in the land of Egypt. The children of Israel were instructed to paint their doorposts with the blood of "an innocent lamb" as a sign of their faith in Yahweh God - the God of the Bible. And on that dreadful night, the Angel of Death would "PASS-OVER" any house that displayed the sign of faith.

Passover was the last night that God's people would live under the oppression of Egypt. Passover was a celebration of freedom - both physically and spiritually.

Tonight was their last night with Jesus, but they still didn't get it. They still didn't understand why Jesus wasn't setting up his Kingdom like all the other Kings. They didn't understand why he kept talking about his death and resurrection. They didn't understand that Jesus was a different kind of King. They didn't understand that Jesus came to GIVE his life away.

Everyone at the table had celebrated this meal their entire life, but tonight was going to be different. Tonight they shared ***THE PASSOVER TABLE*** with ***THE PASSOVER LAMB***.

Luke 22:14-20**The Last Supper.**

¹⁴ When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. ¹⁵ Jesus said, "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. ¹⁶ For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." ¹⁷ Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come."

¹⁹ He took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people - an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you."

Jesus came to GIVE his life away - and if you want to serve like Jesus, you have to be willing to give your life away too.

Serving like Jesus means giving your time, your money, your emotions, and yourself to those around you. Serving like Jesus will cost you relationships, friendships, promotions, and the comforts of life. Serving like Jesus will consume your calendar, your conversations, and your aspirations. Serving like Jesus will be tiring, messy, and costly.

So why bother? Why should we Serve Like Jesus?

Why should we give our life away to serving others?

Because Jesus said,

Matthew 10:39

“If you cling to your life you will lose it;

but if you give up your life for me you will find it.”

Jesus made a promise to every disciple who ever lived that GIVING away your life was the only way to FINDING true life.

Are you ready to Serve Like Jesus? Are you ready to make an eternal difference with your everyday life? Are you ready to give yourself to something that really matters?

It's time to stop talking and start SERVING. Let's GO.