



The Bible Corner

Cindy Cottone

The Last Supper

Matthew sat in silence with the 10 others. It was difficult for him to sort through everything that had happened over the past few days. What was it that Jesus had said at dinner? They had all been gathered around for the Passover meal — Jesus and His most trusted followers. Suddenly, He had looked at all of them and said, "One of you will betray Me." It had seemed impossible to them.

Only one of us, Lord? Matthew thought. We have all betrayed You, Master. Each one of us has let You down at a time when You needed us most.

There were only 11 of them in the garden tonight with Jesus. Judas had come in later with two Roman soldiers and pointed out Jesus for them to take away like a common criminal.

"One of You will betray Me," Jesus had said. *Eleven of us stood and watched them take Jesus away, Matthew mused. Why hadn't we fought off these soldiers and fled with Jesus where no one could ever find us? Matthew went over the events again and again in his mind.*

Matthew remembered the day he met Jesus. It was at Capernaum, where he

worked as a tax collector in the customs house. A tax collector has no friends in this world. Matthew's own people, the Jews, hated him for working for the Roman government. But he hadn't made these laws. It was Roman rule that made the payment of taxes a law that everyone was forced to obey. The Jews considered him unclean because he handled pagan money. And the Romans didn't treat the tax collector any better. Unless you were a member of the ruling class, you simply could not be trusted. Matthew had no friends on either side.

But Jesus had known somehow. Matthew had seen the looks of scorn from the Jews and the Romans that day. Jesus had seen only a person in need of a friend when He had said, "May I come to your house for supper tonight?"

Lord, thought Matthew, I never thought that You would really come. To my house? To the house of a known sinner? "Follow Me," You had said. Was there any other answer but yes?

Matthew looked around at the others in the room. Each person had his own sense of guilt and anguish. "One of You will betray Me."

How could it turn out like this? Only

a few days ago, the people in Jerusalem had cheered Jesus' arrival. Everyone all over the area had heard of the great miracle in Bethany. Lazarus had been raised from the dead by Jesus! When He arrived in Jerusalem, the city had been crowded with people who had come for the Passover festival. They had lined the streets as Jesus had come into Jerusalem, and they had shouted, "Blessed is Jesus who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail our King Jesus!"

Oh, Jesus, I was so sure that this meant the beginning of the new kingdom, Matthew lamented. You saved me! You brought me back from the bottom of my life. Save Yourself now!

It was so hard to understand Jesus sometimes. Matthew thought back again to the Passover meal. It was nearly midnight when they arrived at the house for the meal. Everyone was tired and dusty from the day's journey. Jesus took a bowl of water and washed each person's feet.

"You must serve each other just as I have served you," Jesus said. "I give you a new commandment now. You are to love one another as much as I have loved you."

How can I ever love as much as You, Lord? "One of you will betray me."

When they were all sitting at dinner, Jesus took bread, broke it and said, "All of you, take this bread and eat it, for this is My body which will be given up for you." After that, Jesus took a cup of wine and told each of the apostles to drink of it. "This is My blood which seals the new promise."

How can I ever love as much as You, Jesus? You who would give up Your life

for us? What does all this mean? Jesus told us only a few days ago that He would be handed over to the Roman authorities and crucified. He had known that this was all going to happen.

Matthew was very tired. There was only one thing that he was sure of. Jesus was the Messiah. He believed in Jesus with all of his heart. Somehow he would see Jesus again. Jesus had changed his life. And Matthew knew that he was going to tell everyone all about Jesus.

For discussion:

- 1) Jesus and His apostles went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. What does this annual Jewish holiday celebrate?
- 2) Jesus brought Lazarus back to life. Who were the two sisters of Lazarus?
- 3) What new commandment did Jesus give to His apostles?
- 4) Jesus washed His apostles' feet as a symbol of how we should try to serve others. In what way can we serve other people today?
- 5) What Sacrament did Jesus begin at the Last Supper? What was the new promise?
- 6) Does the apostle Matthew tell others about Jesus?

For further reading:

- 1) The first Passover can be found in the Old Testament in Exodus, Chapter 12.
- 2) Jesus brings Lazarus back to life in the New Testament in Exodus, Chapter 12.
- 3) The Last Supper can be found in the New Testament in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 26; Gospel of Mark, Chapter 14; Gospel of Luke, Chapter 22; and the Gospel of John, Chapter 13.

McQuaid Scholarships

McQuaid Jesuit High School announced academic scholarships for 1986-87 have been awarded to 10 candidates from the ninth grade. The criteria for selecting the recipients of these partial scholarships included the high school entrance examination, academic performance in grammar school, and recent conduct and attendance records. The candidates are invited to renew these scholarships for their future years of schooling at McQuaid.

Scholarship winners were: Mark Bacceti, son of Mr. and Mrs. Loius Bacceti, 12 White Briar, Pittsford; Michael Cooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Cooper, 4 Cullens Run, Pittsford; Andrew Farmer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Farmer, 1071 Genesee Park Blvd., Rochester; Carter Griffin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Griffin, 24 Woodstone Rise, Pittsford; Joshua Hiller, son of Mr. Stroud Hiller, 105 Hampshire Dr., Brighton; Mark Kruger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Kruger, 888 Quaker Hill Rd., Scottsville; George Marron, son of Mrs. Mary Jo

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Notre Dame Auction

The Notre Dame High School Parents Association is seeking alumni and friends for tax-deductible donations for their "Medieval Market." Such sale items as antiques,

appliances and potpourri, as well as vehicles, services, talents and crafts are needed. The auction will be May 3 at 7:30 p.m. at Elmira Holiday Inn, Rochester. For more information call (607)734-2267.

Low-Income Help

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