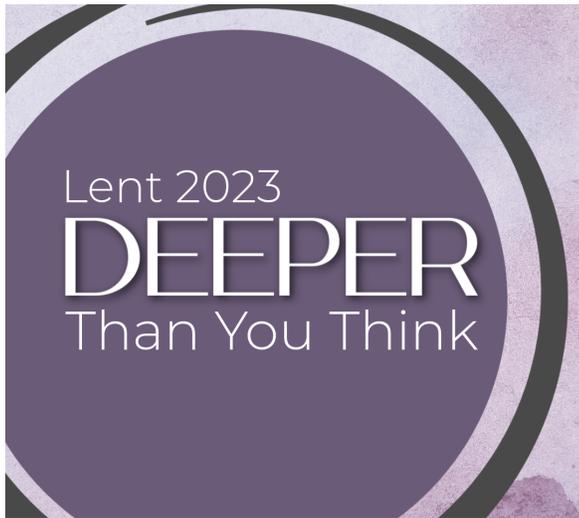


DEEPER THAN YOU THINK: Last Supper

April 2, 2023

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Matthew

14Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests
15and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. 16And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

17On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" 18He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" 19So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. 20When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; 21and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." 22And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" 23He

answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. 24The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." 25Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

26While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." 27Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; 28for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." 30When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

31Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' 32But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

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REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. In what ways have you practiced taking communion/eucharist/The Lord's Supper? Have any moments or ways of doing so been especially impactful, meaningful, or memorable?
3. What does the Lord's Supper mean? Why do you think we do it every week in worship at South Elkhorn?
4. Why do you think Judas betrayed Jesus?
5. Jesus meets the betrayal of Judas (and all those who would reject, abandon, and ignore him), with a reversal. "Betray" in Greek means literally "to hand over." Jesus meets his betrayal by handing over the broken bread—his very self/body—to his disciples in the power of God's forgiving and liberating love. Where Jesus might be seen as only a victim, he claims a surprising agency. The Last Supper is where Jesus reshapes the meaning of his brutal death (and everything that brought it about).
6. Judas isn't just one "bad apple" in an otherwise nice group of disciples. All of them will desert or deny Jesus. Yet Jesus gives to them the bread and cup anyway. How might this be good news for the generations of people who seek to learn and live as his disciples—including you?

What does this holy "reshaping" of hurt and harm into healing and hope mean to you? In what ways are you "reshaping" hurt and harm into healing and hope?

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