

The Standard for True Leaders

International Bible Lesson

Luke 22:14-30

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“For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth” (Luke 22:27—KJV).

“Who is greater, the one who sits down to eat or the one who serves? The one who sits down, of course. But I am among you as one who serves” (Luke 22:27—GNB).

“For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves” (Luke 22:27—NRSV).

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, He did not act as His admirers expected. He did not ride to the temple, and replace the high priests with those He knew would seek God and His will for His people. He did not ride to the palaces of Herod and Pilate, and summon 10,000 angels to replace them with His chosen disciples. Instead, Jesus planned to die and told His apostles that He “eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer” (Luke 22:15). During this Passover meal, His apostles argued about who among them was greater. Jesus corrected them when He said that they must be as one who serves. Jesus came to the Passover feast not to be served by His apostles, but to serve them, even washing their feet. He came into the world to serve and save sinners by dying on a cross in their behalf. His Father approved Jesus’ service when He raised Him from the dead, and Jesus empowered His apostles for service when He filled them with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The Book of Acts describes how the apostles gave their lives in service to others as the Holy Spirit guided them. Jesus promised to bestow on His apostles a leadership role in His eternal kingdom, and they learned to lead from serving others. He promised them that they would someday eat and drink at His table in His kingdom, and they would “sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Luke 22:30).

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Thinking Further

1. What does your participation in communion or the Lord’s Supper mean to you?
2. What do you think motivated Judas to betray Jesus?
3. Why do you think the disciples talked about which of them was the greatest immediately after Jesus instituted the Last Supper?
4. What did Jesus say to begin correcting their false ideas about true greatness?
5. If they served others as He did, which they eventually did, what did Jesus promise them?

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