

*The Festival of Unleavened Bread, which is also called Passover, was approaching. 2 The leading priests and teachers of religious law were plotting how to kill Jesus, but they were afraid of the people's reaction. 3 Then Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve disciples, 4 and he went to the leading priests and captains of the Temple guard to discuss the best way to betray Jesus to them. 5 They were delighted, and they promised to give him money. 6 So he agreed and began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus so they could arrest him when the crowds weren't around.*

(Luke 22.1-6 NLT)

*31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. 32 But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers." 33 Peter said, "Lord, I am ready to go to prison with you, and even to die with you." 34 But Jesus said, "Peter, let me tell you something. Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even know me."*

(Luke 22.31-34 NLT)

**Names for the breaking of bread and sharing of the cup:**

- 1) Lord's Supper
- 2) Holy Communion
- 3) Eucharist (thanksgiving)

**Communion and Baptism** are the two sacraments in the United Methodist Church. They are often called "holy mysteries". To be a sacrament, Jesus must have participated in the activity and instructed us to continue doing so.

**Context shows this was a meal Jesus shared with betrayers.**

**WHAT DOES THIS SAY ABOUT THE MEAL?**

The fact that people were at the table who were actively and would eventually betray Jesus tells us so much about what this meal is all about. It is about God's grace (gift) being prepared and offered even in the face of open rebellion. It is the means God chooses to use to bring forgiveness and reconciliation. It is an intervening event for those who are close to God and those who are living in open rebellion. We call this prevenient grace in our Wesleyan heritage. It is the gift that comes before our acknowledging a need for God. It is the gift that is prepared without regard to our willingness to receive or our deserving of it in the first place. As a matter of fact, perhaps it is helpful to consider Holy Communion as the antidote prepared in the midst of our illness.

**Invitation to Communion:**

- 1) Love God, 2) earnestly repent of sins, 3) and seek to live in peace with your neighbor.

Invitation in my own words...desiring of God's grace regardless of lack of understanding, past sins, or current doubt.

Not my table, your table, First Church table, or UMC table but God's.

Notes: