

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Let This Cup Pass From Me

The four days prior to Maundy Thursday have been hectic, eye-popping and scary. After a very noisy entry on Sunday Jesus attacked the Temple on Monday. He overturned the vendor's business tables and said that the Temple is a house of prayer. This sealed his doom. The plotting of the CIA and the Romans was on. Now how could they get Jesus without a major fight? Did Jesus' followers have a weak link? They found it in Judas. Meanwhile, on Tuesday and Wednesday, groups tried to get Jesus merely jailed or thrown out of the city. They tried to ensnare Jesus in controversial comments. Catch him and throw him out. This would avoid the Roman guard and possible death. It didn't work. Thursday came, the day before Passover. On that night, Jesus does something very different at the traditional Passover Seder meal. He takes bread and wine and relates it to his body and blood and refers to its future use. The disciples are confused. Little did they know that this act with bread and wine would change the religious history of the world. Later that night Jesus prays in Gethsemane "Let this cup pass from me." That was not God's will. The legal forces were already at work. They had met with Judas and were marching towards Jesus.

Have you prayed to "let the cup of the virus pass from me?" Have you worried about your body and blood and those you love? And the bodies of billions of others in our world? Have you thought of the virus and those who are crowded in refugee camps or the slums of our cities? Jesus is concerned about our being strengthened by His body and blood. What does all this mean? Can he defeat his most certain death on Friday? He prays about it in Gethsemane. Jesus is good! Is he good enough to defeat death?

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, rise up against the enemy. Show us what a body of God can do. You are our last and final hope. And also, Jesus, rise up against this virus. Amen.