

Mark 14:32-41a & John 13:23-25 John Reclining/Sleeping Apr.17, 2025  
Holy Thursday @ Immanuel, Mercedes

INTRO: The conversation & events in tonight's Gospel reading occurred in the Upper Room at our Lord's Last Supper. We had a Wednesday night sermon about Judas. Tonight we will study an unnamed disciple mentioned in John 13:23-25. (*read it*)

## I. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JOHN'S RECLINING

### A. His (mutual, special) love for/from Jesus

1. Upper Room scene; reclining close to Jesus' breast
2. shared cushions at 'coffee table'
3. John 13:23 'disciple whom Jesus loved (Upper Room)
4. John 19:26 at Calvary, Jesus' mother and the 'disciple...loved')
5. a special friendship, closeness (**agapay** both times)(youngest?)

### B. The beloved disciple's biography

1. personal call to faith, to discipleship
2. with Peter & brother James Zebedee; an intimate circle of 3
3. Peter's mother-in-law; Transfiguration; Gethsemane
4. lived to old age; Ephesus, Patmos; Revelations
5. beloved disciple; responsible apostle

### C. His reception of the Last Supper

1. at Last Supper, others asked John to ask Jesus
2. John was closest in proximity and affinity
3. John's gospel spends six chapters in Upper Room!
4. possibly first one in the world to receive Holy Communion
5. beloved disciple attentive, involved, remembering...
6. and no more than an hour later... (*read Mark 14:32-41a*)

## II. THE STORY OF JOHN'S SLEEPING IN GETHSEMANE

### A. Such a contrast

1. agony beginning for Jesus; Passion intensifies
2. Jesus must bear the world's sins alone
3. He strengthens Himself with an hour of prayer
4. requests prayers and presence of His close friends
5. possible excuses: late hour; big meal; wine; sorrow (Luke)
6. Jesus still chides them for not staying awake

### B. The harm to John

1. Jesus earlier said all would fall away, watch and pray
2. here again warned, lest they fall into temptation
3. later guilt for failing a friend's final request
4. could have missed the meaning of Jesus' passion
5. disciples tempted to guilt, despair, disbelief

### C. The hurt to Jesus

1. sinless True Man; had human feelings!
2. no human friend awake; only an angel strengthened Him
3. hear the hurt: could ye not watch with me one hour
4. heightened alone-ness before the cross; disappointing
5. **every** sin grieves Jesus; the Father; Holy Spirit
6. especially those sins from close friends of Jesus

### III. THE WAYS IN WHICH WE ARE LIKE JOHN

#### A. A called disciple

1. called 'little Christ' in baptism
2. invited to same feast of His Body and Blood
3. we have His promised presence with us, also
  - a. personally: Lo, I am with you always, even...
  - b. corporately: Where 2 or 3 are gathered together in My name
  - c. sacramentally: My Body/Blood for **you**...remission of **your**...
4. created anew in Christ Jesus into good works; like praying

#### B. Burdened with sinful flesh

1. our excuses, like John, for not watching one hour
  - a. church is too warm, too drafty, too cold, too noisy
  - b. too busy for worship, devotion, study, meditation
  - c. worst: I don't need an hour with Jesus
2. spirit is willing, flesh is weak (Matt.26:4;1)
3. Paul: a war among my members (Rom7:18ff)
4. spirit/flesh in spiritual, ethical sense; not body per se
5. while still in 'the flesh' we need to watch and pray

#### C. Needing Jesus' repeated reminders

1. still needing Holy Word with reminders
2. prayer before, during, and after temptations
3. thoroughly immersed in Word as defense against temptation
4. as we fall (and we will) heeding calls to repentance
5. watching what Jesus has done for us, vicariously
6. Jesus' suffering was paying for His friends' sins of not adequately watching and praying
7. so, John is forgiven! you and I are forgiven!

CONCLUSION: I thank you who have stayed awake this past hour,  
and I thank God for you, my friends; Jesus' friends.

We are watching and praying and strengthening one another by the work of the Holy Spirit among us. And may the coming Body and Blood further keep you in the true faith unto life everlasting. Amen.