



## Jesus Orders the Supper, Part1

Luke 22:14-20

We're going to prepare our hearts for the blessing of celebrating the communion ordinance. And in preparing our hearts, it's the Lord who has brought us into a special text in our study of Luke's Gospel, and it's the institution of the Lord's table. This is what the Lord set up for us, set this table, prepared it for us, and invites us to come. So if you would turn to Luke 22 in your Bibles.

Luke 22, and we'll find ourselves in verse 14, the portrayals of the two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper; it's interesting to note that they bracket the ministry of Jesus Christ. His ministry commenced after his own baptism at the baptism of John the Baptist, and his ministry will conclude after instituting communion in the context of the Passover and both of those acts of our Lord portray the salvation of sinners. It was in the waters of his own baptism where he identifies with sinners, even though he himself committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth.

He identifies nonetheless with sinners as he dies as a substitute to pay for their sins, the due penalty for their sins, and then rise from the dead for their justification. In communion, which we're going to see this morning, the bread and the cup picture Christ's substitution for sinners, again him dying to forgive sins, to forgive sinners of their sins, and to institute in his blood the new covenant.

So baptism and communion, bookends on Jesus earthly ministry, his first advent, his first coming, bracketed by baptism and communion, each of them portraying the gospel, the good news of Christ's life, death, burial, and resurrection for all who believe. They join in him in a spiritual participation in his death, burial, and resurrection, and they live because of his eternal life given to them as a gift for faith.

As ordinances for the church, we see in the order that they come in history, communion actually comes first. It's not until after the resurrection and in just before his ascension when he institutes baptism as the entrance ordinance into the local church to identify who his true church members are. And it's they, that then participate in the fellowship of communion which he institutes here in our text, Luke 22:14 through 20.

Let's begin by reading. "And when the hour had come, he," that's Jesus, "reclined at the table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, 'I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it's fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.' When he had taken a cup and given thanks, he said, 'Take this and share it among yourselves. For I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the Kingdom of God comes.' When he had taken some bread and given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup after they had eaten, saying 'this cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'" And we'll stop there.

What Luke has recorded here, Paul received this same pattern from the Lord himself, and it's recorded in 1 Corinthians Chapter 11. And in 1 Corinthians 11:23 Paul says, "for I receive from the Lord," that is by special revelation, direct revelation from Christ himself. Paul was visited by Christ the Lord, and he also, what he received from the Lord about this ordinance; that he also delivered to the Corinthian church, what was delivered, was the truth of this ordinance instituted on the night in which he was betrayed.

This is that night, this is the occasion, these are the circumstances, and this is why we practice the ordinance of communion regularly in our church. That's why every faithful, true Christian Church practices the ordinance of communion, some weekly, some monthly, some quarterly. I don't know of anybody who practices it like the Passover only annually, but I know that most churches practice either monthly or even weekly. This is the night where it all began. This is the occasion and the setup for the institution of the Lord's Supper; these are the circumstances.

The atoning sacrifice that Jesus will provide for his people is going to happen in less than 24 hours from this moment and even though we are very familiar, having many of us having practiced the Lord's Table for many years, sometimes some of us decades, I do not want the significance of what is going on here in this text to be lost in the familiarity we have with the text and with the ordinance of communion, because what's happening here is no small thing at all. It is huge.

Jesus does something totally unprecedented here. He makes what is really an audacious move because here in this text, as we just read it, he calls for a pause on the Passover. Let that register for a minute. Israel had observed Passover ever since

the Exodus. This is like 1500 years of practice starting on the night that they left Egypt and ever since they'd practice this. So Passover had become an ordinance even before Israel had become a nation.

Passover had been a practice even before Sinai, before the Law of Moses, before it was written into the law and Jesus calls a halt to it. He pushes pause, calls a time out on Passover. Going further than that, it's not just that he paused the Passover, it's that he replaces the Passover with another ordinance, and it's his own ordinance. It's to be practiced regularly and in his own name. So he pauses one ordinance and institutes another; a memorial ordinance.

By ordinance, it means order. He's ordering this to happen. That's the idea. That's the strength of it. That's the authority that's invested in this. Pauses one ordinance, one authoritative order, and institutes another authoritative order. Calls for a memorial dedicated to himself. He says, do this, be doing this in remembrance of me. If the Jewish leaders had been like the proverbial fly on the wall in the upper room, they'd be losing their minds right now, tearing out their beards, tearing off their clothing, ripping it apart, throwing dust on their heads and saying blasphemy, blasphemy.

They'd come to Jesus after he had cleared the temple. If you remember back in Luke 20 verse 2, demanding, "Tell us by what authority you're doing these things." Now, this: Changing the times, changing the seasons, the ordinance of Israel, who does this man think that he is? As Jesus said at the start of Luke 21, the previous chapter, the whole temple edifice, along with all of its sacrifices, along with all of its worship, the whole thing is going to come down. It's going to be destroyed. He outlined that in the destruction of the Romans in AD70.

In Luke 21, predicted it's all going to come to an end. And now knowing what's going to happen, he institutes a new ordinance for his new covenant people to make sure that they are spiritually fed, and provided for, and cared for, and, and have life in themselves, because of these ordinances, far into the future, all the way up to 2000 years later, this very moment.

So folks, in the familiarity of the communion ordinance that many of you have observed for much of your lives, I don't want you to miss out on the significance of what Jesus does here. Calling time out on Passover, pushing pause on Israel's feast ordinances; ordinances is no small thing and more significant, still, is to replace it with an ordinance in his own name.

That's audacious. This is huge, but it's true and it's completely justified.

Not only is it justified as in, it's vindicated to be true. But, and like it's okay; he's got a good excuse for it. No, it's right, it's righteous, it is God ordained and determined to happen exactly this way. In the eyes of the world, and especially if we were to transport ourselves back onto this night, in this occasion, following this, Jesus makes us either the greatest movement of iconoclastic rebels ever, engaging in the most hideous and grievous form of idolatry ever committed, or on the other hand, which is true, we're blessed of God.

We're able to see what others cannot see, what even the most religious, what the entire religious system could not see; what all the leaders could not see. We are able to hear what they can't hear. We're able to understand things that they rejected and condemned, and indeed even put him on the cross for. By divine grace we've been blessed to understand the greatest, the most wondrous of the mysteries of salvation. And so, Christian, that's what I have prayed.

That is what I pray, even now, as I preach that God will do for you today, that he will cause the weightiness of the ordinance of communion, and I would add also baptism as well. You cause

the weightiest, the gravitas of these ordinances to rest on you, not lightly, but heavily, so that you would feel them, so you would know your God and understand how seriously he takes these things, that you would honor baptism and the Lord's Supper as Christ has.

In this terribly distracted age, in these spiritually dull times in which we live, so many of us raised in profane worldly churches, with no true understanding of the Lord's Table, or baptism for that matter. On the one hand, we can be so casual and flippant about the ordinances which Christ secured for us by his blood, which he commanded us to observe. Christians in ages past called these sacraments. They were the regular means of God's grace to us, giving us life, bringing about blessing and benefit to us. In fact, there are many Christians who, differing with the predominant view of the ordinances, especially of communion, paid for their view in blood.

On the other hand, we see today, in the practice of baptism and the Lord's Table, there are some who act as if they have the authority to practice these ordinances, however they please. I don't know if you've ever heard of spontaneous baptisms, everybody rush up to the stage and jump in the water and we're going to make you members of the church and call you Christians.



Spontaneous baptisms, all done in this euphoria of religious experience and feeling, rush into the waters of baptism. It's an absolute blasphemy.

There are some who take the prerogative that they have not been given to innovate and do as they please and set aside what Christ ordered, and form it to their own preferences, and do their own thing with it. Is there no fear of God anymore? So my prayer has been that God grants you a renewed understanding of communion, so that you will truly appreciate what Christ has given at the cost of his life and I want you to come to the Lord's Table whenever it's set for you, reverently, in an attitude of profound joy and deep, deep gratitude, with a heart of worship in remembrance of Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Lord. That's my preamble.

I'm going to take three points to guide us through the text: The situation, the expectation, and the institution. The situation, the expectation, and the institution. First, the situation, and you could just fill this in, if you put a little colon there. The situation, colon, the love for his friends, the love for his friends: That's the situation.

We started this chapter verse 1, with the Passover drawing near. In verse 7, the day of Passover had come, and now in verse 14,

the hour itself has come. We kind of see a funneling down of the time frame. Now we're there. Now we're where we're supposed to be. We've been looking toward it, we've been looking to it, we've been anticipating it. Now we're here, we're in the room. Jesus is there with his apostles in the upper room, and the context for the situation is his love for them, and by extension, they being the foundation stones of the church, his love for you and me, beloved, his love for us.

When the hour had come, he reclined at the table and the apostles with him. The hour, what's that hour? It's sometime after 6:00 PM, could be a little bit later, we don't know. But it gives them, about, after 6:00 PM, gives them about five or six hours before midnight and that's enough time for them to eat, drink, observe the Passover, go through the ritual, and the form that it had, the pattern that it had in their day. And at midnight, the meal must come to an end. It's going to go into a new day, so they must stop the meal and be done with the meal at midnight.

They are reclining, it says here, which is how they ate the Passover meal, lying on dining couches or large pillowed cushions. All these couches and cushions kind of surrounding the dining table. The dining table itself is in the middle of their

tables, and it's a low table with the food on it. They would recline with their head facing the table where the food was; good for them, that's I agree.

They leaned on their left side and on their left elbow and then they would stretch their feet out behind them, away from the table, which gave Christ, when he washed the disciples' feet, easy access to all the feet on the outside. After all, you don't want the feet anywhere near the middle of the table; not good. Those things have been walking around in the mud and everything that flows in the streets. Medieval thinking.

Just leave it to your imagination of what's flowing in the streets. You don't want that anywhere near your food. You want it on the outside and that's what they did. And to think about them, Jesus washing their feet, meaning that they had not washed their feet. Nobody had taken up the service of doing them that service of washing their feet until Jesus stood up and did for them what they would not do for one another. Nevertheless, their feet stretched out behind them, away from the table, and they lean on their left side, on their left elbows, and ate the food, taking from the table with their right hand and having conversation with one another, all their heads and their faces toward one another, toward the middle.

The setting is called a Triclinium, table set up in a U-shape table set up, and the couch is set up in a U-shape, like this; with the open part of the U filled in by that rectangular serving table which had all the food. That was where the meal was, bitter herbs and charoset for dipping the bread was on that table, the pascal lamb that Peter and John had sacrificed earlier that day at the temple, which they had been roasting ever since, over fire. No doubt, as they walked into that upper room and took their places around the table. It smelled good, the herbs, spices, making their mouths water.

I just think, ever, every time, Middle Eastern spices and the, the meat, the lamb, festive occasion. They came there to celebrate together God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt, came there to rejoice in his present faithfulness, to provide for and protect Israel, and also to anticipate a future consummation of God's deliverance, hopefully in the very near future. They being with the Messiah, they thought, hey, this could be right around the corner. We're going to see it ourselves.

This occasion is one that lifted their spirits. So these apostles, as they enter into the room with their Lord, they're hungry, they're happy, they are ready to eat. They're ready to enjoy the food and a meal that's made even more meaningful by

the deep spiritual significance of the meal. Ready to enjoy each other's company, each other's friendships, laugh at each other's jokes and then Jesus says to them, in verse 15, because he's been pensive about this night, he's been thinking about this for a long time and he says, "I've earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I say to you, I shall never eat it again until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God."

The literal translation of that opening phrase is, with desire I desired, or you could say that, instead of, *with*, in desire, that might even be better. In desire, it's a dative, in desire I desired, that's a Hebraic way of speaking the Hebrew grammar. This is called an infinitive absolute. It's taking the verb, desire, in its verbal cognate, a noun, and it just conveys a very strong emphasis by using the same word twice.

One as a verb; one as a noun. Here it's emotional, it's expressing a deep feeling of affection, and of love and longing. The verb here is *epithymao* and its cognate *epithymia* is a general sense of expressing a strong desire, a great longing for something, or for someone. In a negative sense, in the, in the New Testament we see this as the word *epithymia*, the word translated as, lust or its sinful passion. So think about that, compelling desire is the, is the strength here.

Positively though *epithymia* and its verb form *epithymao* expresses this intense, earnest, eager desire, a deep longing, intense, included in all of his enthusiasm for this time, for this occasion, for this meal. You have to understand this is likely the first time in Jesus' ministry that he led a Passover meal, but that he led one, that he presided over one. All the other Passovers recorded in the Gospels, Jesus seems to be the guest.

Here though he's the host, he's the leader. What some commentators refer to as the president, in the sense of, he was presiding over the meal. So as the one presiding over the meal with these men, in particular his men, his twelve chosen apostles, he has the special joy, in this occasion, of taking the bread, giving thanks, breaking it, and giving it to them to distribute. Does that pattern and those verbs I just used ring a bell for you? He took bread, he gave thanks, he broke it, and he gave it to them to distribute.

When else did he do that? Remember when he fed the 5000 miraculously with the fish and the loaves? Just kept on handing it out to them; kept on handing out. Just break them up into groups of 50s. You got 5000 men besides women and children. So probably upwards of 10, 15, 20 thousand people, fed them all

miraculously. What was the lesson? Don't worry about you not having bread. Don't worry about you having enough to eat. I have eternal life in myself. I am your provider. I am the bread who's come down from heaven and God has given me to you for life. Feed on me.

Same pattern here. It's just as he did in Luke 9:16, when he fed the 5000. This meal is symbolizing his provision and he gets to show them this here. Going back a bit further in his thinking perhaps, his provision for his people goes all the way back to Israel, doesn't it? Having left Egypt, sojourning in the wilderness, entering into the promised land.

It's Paul who drew this out for the Corinthians that all Israel, as he says in 1 Corinthians 10, ten, all of them ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they were drinking from, get this, a spiritual rock which followed them. Rocks don't follow anybody. They just sit there. Now this is a spiritual rock that was following them, and the rock was Christ. He has always been providing. The reason, though, in this occasion that Jesus gives for this intense desire is this, "I've earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God."

Jesus knows there is a greater provision that these men have need of. There's a deeper spiritual provision and he's going to meet their need for them, and they have no idea what it is. They don't understand. This provision is going to be one that secures their place in the Kingdom of God. But it's going to come at a great cost. Which is remarkable, isn't it, that in thinking about his crucifixion and telling them about it here less than 24 hours away, he's also talking about his joy in being with them, his desire, his love for them.

I can't imagine the tension between those emotions and feelings that are going on inside of his soul. I can only observe. I can only try to imagine, try to apprehend. It's Alfred Plummer, who points this out, he says, "The knowledge of the intensity of the suffering does not cancel the intensity of the desire." His love for his people, at the same time, the realization, the full impact of the weight of the wrath of God, that's about to hit him on that cross.

Holding those two together, by the way, a very strong statement here, "I say to you," that has the form of a formal announcement. "I say to you," and then this, "I will by no means," *oume*, in the Greek, it's the strongest way of negating something. "I will by no means, eat of it." What's it? The



antecedent there is the Passover. So "I will by no means,"  
strongest negation, "eat Passover until Passover is fulfilled in  
the Kingdom of God."

When is that going to be? Well, we happen to have some  
revelation on that, God told us about that. This happens when  
Passover is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. It happens after  
the temple of Ezekiel is built. God gives the prophecy about the  
future temple in Ezekiel 40 and following. So it happens after  
the temple of Ezekiel is built, when it becomes operational in  
the millennial Kingdom on earth. As Ezekiel 45:21 says, "In the  
first month, on the 14th day of the month," exactly this time,  
"you shall have the Passover, a feast of seven days. Unleavened  
bread shall be eaten." Oh, that's when.

Now as we get down into the room here, as we think about this  
scene, what's going on, it is impossible to be totally dogmatic,  
because there is so much going on during this time. We don't  
have a service order. We don't have an order of service. We  
don't have a, an agenda set out for the meal printed in  
scripture. But I do believe, as others do, that what John  
records in John 13:1 to 20, which we read earlier in the  
service. All that happens right here, all that happens right  
here at this time.

In fact, turn over to John chapter 13 and let's just go ahead and hold a finger in Luke 22, if you'd like to for reference. But in John 13, we're going to unpack this just a little bit for your edification. John 13, "Now before the feast of the Passover, Jesus, knowing that His hour had come, that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." He loved them to the uttermost, "during supper, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and He had come forth from God, was going back to God, He got up from supper and he laid aside his garments; taking a towel, he tied it around himself." And "then he poured water into the washbasin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel which he had tied around himself."

Again, picture the scene. You got that U-shaped seating arrangement, the couches around the middle table. Peter is sitting, if you kind of imagine a U, he's sitting at the top end of one end of the U-configuration. And that's good for Peter because he has taken the lowest place at the table. He's started to really mull over the Lord's parables about taking the lowest place, about not trying to put himself forward, which he was so

prone to do. So he takes the lowest place seated over here at one end of the U, at the top end. He's taken the lowest place, he's sitting, that means, across the table from Jesus, who is at the other end.

Verse 24 says, he's across the table from him because the leader was there presiding over the meal. You know who sits in the highest place to the left of Jesus, in the highest place at the table to the left of the host, to the left of the one presiding over the meal? Judas Iscariot has taken that place. In the white spaces between Luke 22:16 and 17, I believe it's at this point that Jesus has washed his disciples' feet. Right after that, Jesus identifies Judas as the betrayer.

Luke, we see that in Luke's account, he records the identification of the betrayer after the meal in verses 21 to 23. I stopped short of reading that for Matthew and Mark though in their accounts, that happens first. In their accounts here are more strictly chronological. In this place, we'll get to why Luke has ordered the things and arranged the material as he's done, for another time. We'll save that for another time. But all I have to say, Matthew and Mark have kind of followed more of a strictly chronological; agreeing with one another that

Jesus identifies the betrayer right after he's washed his disciples' feet.

Sometime after that, the meal started, a little bit of the meal is going and he identifies his betrayer during the meal. So after Judas is exposed, he's expelled, he leaves. This is in clear contrast, isn't it, to the rest of the apostles; those who stay, those whom he teaches, those for whom he institute's the Lord's Supper. Clearly see this if you look down the text in John 13 to verse 17, Jesus says, "If you know these things, you're blessed if you do them. I don't speak about all of you."

"I know the ones whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats my bread has lifted up his heel against me.'" And "from now on, I'm telling you before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I'm He." I want you to hear the prediction so that when it happens in real time, you look back on what I said and realize that came from God. I am from God.

He's validated my word by what has happened. "Truly, truly, I say to you, verse 20, he who receives anyone I send receives me, and he who receives me receives him who sent me. And when Jesus had said these things, he became troubled in spirit, bore witness, and said, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will

betray me.' The disciples began looking at one another, perplexed about whom he had spoken."

Listen, I'm going to read from Matthew's account, which along with Mark's account, as I said, follows the chronology. Here's what Matthew 26 says, verse 20, "Now when evening had come, he was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. And as they were eating, he said, 'Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.'" Same thing we see here, continuing in John's Gospel. See the response? "The disciples, they begin looking at one another. They're perplexed about whom he spoke and there was reclining on Jesus' bosom, one of his disciples whom Jesus loved. So Simon Peter," again, he's across the table, isn't he? He "gestures to him to inquire who's the one of whom he's speaking."

And leaning back thus on, like, he doesn't bark it out loud. He's gesturing to him. He's mouthing the words, hey, who is it? Who is it? So John leaning back thus on Jesus bosom, he's at his right. "He leans back and he said to him, 'Lord, who is it?'" He's quiet, "Jesus answered, 'He's the one for whom I shall dip the piece of bread and give it to him.' So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he took, gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot."

As I said, Peter is on the other side of the table from Jesus, other side of the table, then from John, as well. He's reclining at the right side of Jesus. He's able to lean back on Jesus' chest and as the two of them, John and Peter find out who it is. Meanwhile the rest of the company is in a panic. This is what we read in Matthew's account. I mean they're just left with, so "one of you is going to betray me", and it says in Matthew 26:22, "Being deeply grieved. They each one begin to say to him, 'surely not I Lord.'"

I mean they're mortified. Can I just stop, real quick, there and make a footnote? When any true Christian is confronted with sin, even if he doesn't believe himself or believe herself to have committed that sin, the fact that there's a confrontation, that there might be something about the reputation that is untoward, that is not befitting of Jesus Christ in his gospel. Every true believer says, and let me clear that up, that's not, that's not true.

Surely not I, Lord, surely, it's not me, is it? "He answered and said, 'He who dipped his hand with me in the bowl is the one who'll betray me.'" They're thinking that doesn't help. We've all dipped our hands in the bowl. This lines up with John 13:26. And then Jesus gives this warning. "The Son of Man is to go,

just as it is written of him. But woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." And then this, "Judas who was betraying him answered and said, 'Surely it is not I, Rabbi?' And He said to him, 'You said it yourself.'" Hard to imagine, isn't it, the coldness in Judas, hardness of heart in Judas Iscariot, a pride so deeply set in, that he imagines that he has fooled Jesus and the others.

Chilling isn't it to realize, according to verse 27, that this hypocrisy in Judas Iscariot that happens before Satan entered him again, not after. This hypocrisy, this chilling coldness to his heart, his lack of love for this, for this one that he has called rabbi and friend; whom he will later kiss on the cheek, that he could be so two-faced.

Don't ever underestimate the power of sin, to blind, to harden, to cause such hypocrisy. I keep reading in verse 27, "after the piece of bread Satan then entered into him, and therefore Jesus said to him, what you do, do quickly." Be fast about it. No one of those reclining at the table knew for what purpose he had said this to him. Where some were thinking because Judas had the Money Box, that Jesus was saying to him by the things we have

need, need up for the feast, or else that he should give something to the poor.

By the way, if they were to leave the upper room and go over to the temple, they'd find the temple packed with people because they kept the temple open to midnight in order to take offerings and alms for the poor, because so many pilgrims and travelers were in town. So they thought he's got the money bag, he's either going to buy something that we need or forgot, or he's going to take something for the poor. So verse 30, "After receiving the piece of bread, Judas went out immediately. And it was night."

Evidently the apostles, overhearing this, thought Judas, he who was sitting in the highest seat, at the place of honor, right next to Jesus at the table. They thought Jesus had sent Judas on some special errand. After all, Peter and John had been sent on a special errand. Maybe now it's Judas's turn. He's getting his due. He's getting sent. Peter and John knew the truth of it. But how? How are they to get their minds around this in the moment?

I mean, of all the potential betrayers sitting at the table, certainly not Judas. I mean, this has completely baffled the two of them. But it is important for us to know. That's why I'm taking this little detour into John 13. It's important for us to



know that Judas Iscariot was not in the room at the institution of the Lord's Table, just as Israel was to go through the entire house and scour it, even using a lamp and a, and a light, to go and look through the house, to find every ounce of leaven and purge it from the house and get rid of it, so Jesus finds the leaven in his own midst and purges it before instituting the fellowship ordinance of the church.

Judas had certainly partaken of some of the meal. He had certainly heard Jesus' teaching, seen the miracles, partaken of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He'd eaten enough to receive the piece of bread that the Lord dipped into the bowl and gave him. Then, after taking the bread from Jesus, Satan entered him. Judas went out from their midst. He went back to report to Caiaphas on Jesus's whereabouts in order to lead the detachment of soldiers back into the upper room for the arrest.

Judas thinks he's got this all under control. This is the opportune time. I'm going to pounce. We're going to get him. They're all there trapped in a Passover meal, stuck fast in the upper room, bound by ceremony, bound by ordinance. Religiously, they're not going to break from this. He's got the time, he's got the occasion, he's got the opportunity. Perfect timing.

Whatever Judas imagines, whatever he thinks, whatever judgment is on his mind, it is the Lord Jesus who's in complete control here. He is the one calling the shots. He's the one driving all the action. He's the one who is exposed. Judas chose the timing, expelled him from the company of true apostles. "I know whom I have chosen. But one of you is a devil." And Judas is unmasked. This then becomes the basis of our fencing of the Lord's Table.

Why do we do that? Why do we say that no one can come, if they're not in good standing with a faithful gospel preaching church, as they haven't been baptized since they've come to faith in Jesus Christ? Why do we say that? That's because we're following the Lord's example. We're trying to be obedient to his ordinance.

The pattern that he set up here, Paul told the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 5:6, after he exposed a heinous form of sin in their midst, he said, "a little leaven leavens the whole lump," of dough. You can't have that, so clean out the old leaven. So you may be a new lump, as you are in fact unleavened for Christ our Passover has been sacrificed." What does it mean that you are in fact unleavened? He means all of you who are truly Christians. There is no leaven in you. I've taken care of that. I've forgiven the sin. It's all gone.

Everybody who is part of my true church, you are in fact unleavened. So let the visible conform to the invisible, let the practice conform to the actual reality, so that none but true Christians come to this table. "For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the feast not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness," that's Judas Iscariot, "with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." Remove the wicked man from your midst, Paul says. That's the situation, the situation for the institution of the Lord's table. The situation is that Jesus loves his friends. He loves you and me. He loves his apostles and by extension, his entire church for whom he died. He loves his friends.