

The Miracle Of The Meal

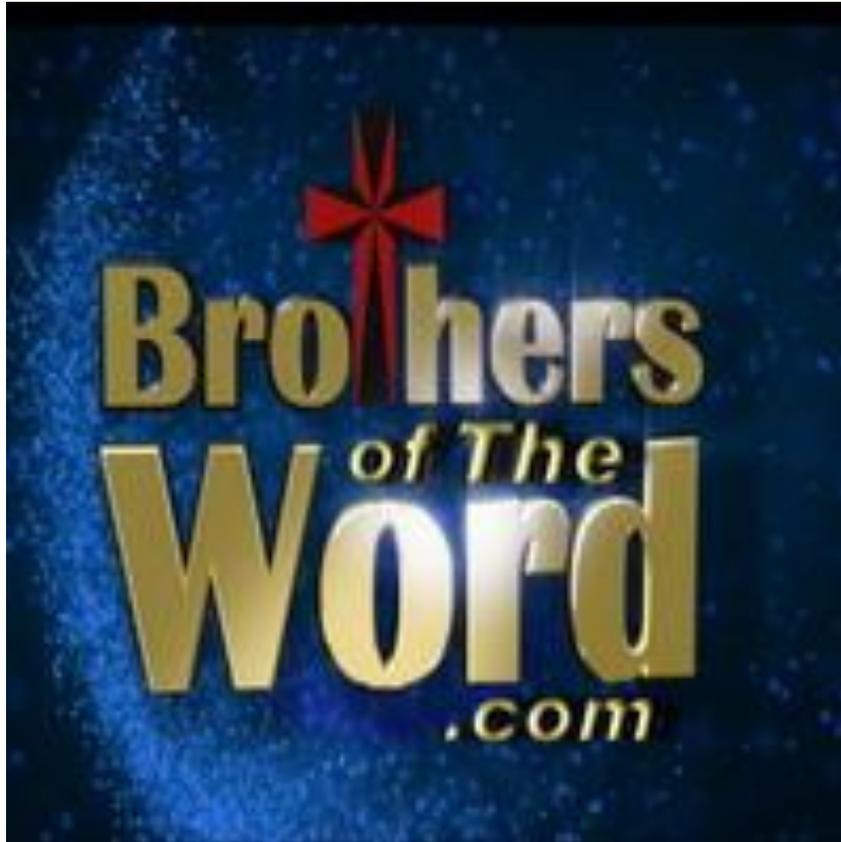
Sermon Title: **The Miracle Of The Meal**

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Speaker: **Elisha Bronner**

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Elisha Bronner: Jesus poured out his life for us so God's wrath will not be poured out on us.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is the sermon titled, "The Miracle of the Meal," by Elisha Bronner. This sermon is number 6561.

(Music Playing: 00:00:13 - 00:00:24)

Female: And now for, The Miracle of the Meal.

Elisah Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because brother and sister you need the word. So, the title for my message today is "The Miracle of the Meal" and I'm coming from Mark 14:22-26. So, starting at Verse 22, it says "As they were eating, he took the bread blessed and broke it gave it to them and said take it, this is my body." Then he took a cup and after giving thanks he gave it to them and so they all drank from it. He said to them "This is my blood that establishes the covenant, it is shed for many. I assure you I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it in a new way in the Kingdom" after singing Psalms, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

So, in this passage, you have Jesus and his disciples and they're all sharing a meal together, this is the Passover meal. It is happening the day before Jesus is being crucified, right? And so, just to give you a picture of what's going on in this moment. Right before this, you have the chief priests and the scribes. They're looking for a way to kill Jesus, right? And it says they're looking for a treacherous way to arrest and to kill Jesus. They decided that the time that they were looking for a way, it was in the middle of what's called the "Festival of Unleavened Bread" and they said that they didn't want to do it in the middle of that festival, because I was going to cause an uproar among the people

And So you have Judas, who we all know is one of Jesus's disciples and he goes and makes a deal with the priests and with the scribes to hand Jesus over to them. And so, it says that they were glad and they promised to give Judas 30 pieces of silver and then it says that Judas began looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus, right? So, this is happening literally like the

day before or hours before this Passover meal. That Jesus was having with his disciples. So, before I go any further, I just want you to think about these two things.

The first thing is that, Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. I think about this, and I'm like Judas, what? That doesn't make any sense. There's no comparison. Why would you do that? Jesus is worth infinitely more. Yet every single day we are also betraying Jesus for our own version of what 30 pieces of silver is, right? So, while we look at Judas, let's look at our own lives, right?

The second thing to take note of, is that it says that Judas was looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus and I'm like Judas there's no such thing as a good opportunity to betrayed Jesus, because any opportunity that you have to betray Jesus is not going to be good, right? But again, we do every single day. We have opportunities to betray Jesus and a lot of times we take them. We say, "Oh, I don't want to wake up any earlier, so I'm going to sleep through my alarm, that's set for me to get up and pray, right? "Oh, I don't feel like turning off the TV, so I'm just going to keep binge watching whatever and avoid reading my Bible," right?

Where Jesus is literally calling out to us every single day and we take what we consider as a good opportunity and we betray Jesus in those moments, right? And so, when we betray Jesus for these lesser things, that is essentially our 30 pieces of silver that Judas betrayed Jesus for, right? And so, again this is happening right before the Passover meal. So, at the Passover meal again, you have Jesus and his disciples and they're eating and it says that they're eating and they're reclining and Jesus says I assure you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me?

So, then all the disciples are like, surely not I. Surely I'm not the one, right? And so, like they're all trying to figure out who it is, but Jesus already knows who it is. He says it is one of the 12, it is the one who was dipping bread with me in the bowl.

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And then it goes on to say for the son of man, will go just as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the son of man

is betrayed. It would have been better for that man, if he had not been born. So again, Jesus knows that Judas is about to betray him. Jesus is fully aware and he's fully aware of the pain and of the suffering and have everything that is going to come as a result of Judas betraying him. He is fully aware, right, but here they are at this meal together.

And then not only that, is after the meal, you know, Jesus knows what's going to come next, right? He knows what's going to come after this meal. So, after the meal, you have Jesus talking to all of his disciples and he says "All of you will run away, because it is written. I will strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered." And then Peter says "Surely if everyone will run away, I certainly won't" and Jesus says "I assure you, today this very night before the rooster crows twice. You will deny me three times."

And so, Jesus is at this meal at this Passover meal in the middle of Judas making plans to betray him in the middle of not only Peter denying him, but all of his disciples denying him. Jesus knows, Jesus knows this, he knows it's going to happen. Jesus knows. The conversations that have already happened and he knows what is coming right after this, right? And even still, going back to Verse 22, even still it says as they were eating, he took the bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them. So Jesus, knowing what is coming. He blessed the bread. That was the first thing he did. He took the bread, he blessed it.

He said "Thank you, God" he gave thanks to God even in the present moment of knowing what was coming. Knowing that the people who are closest to him we're going to betray him and did not him. Not just two of them, all of them. He knew and the first thing he did was give thanks to God. Not only that he gave thanks to God, he broke it and he gave it to them. He's sitting at a table, full of people who are going to betray him and deny him and he says here "Here I'm going to share with you, I'm going to give you what I have."

I'm going to give you, he broke it, and make sure that there was enough for all of them. He decided to share and to serve and to love. Even though he knows what's going to happen. He knows it's already happened. He's fully aware and he made the decision to share and to serve. And then in Verse 23, it says then he took a cup and after giving thanks, he gave it to them.

And so they all drank from it. Again, Jesus knows what's going to happen. He is fully aware. He knows what is coming.

And again, the first thing that he does is he gives thanks to God. How often is thanksgiving our first response. When you're surrounded by enemies, when you're surrounded by people who act like they love you, but you don't know what they're about to do. When we're surrounded in hard situations and hard times even in times of lack. How often is thanksgiving our first response? Jesus offered thanksgiving to God as his first response. Again, it says after giving thanks he gave it to them so they all drink from it.

So again, he's giving them this drink. He's giving them, he gave it to them and they all drank from it. He didn't say "I'm going to give it to everybody except for you Judas, you're going to betray me in a few minutes. I'm not going to give it to you." No, he gave it to all of them and they all drank from it together. So, in the midst of what could have been strife. What could have been very awkward tension. Jesus still created unity, and he created love right?

And so, there's this post that I see on Facebook about every year around Easter time, because you know Passover is right before Easter. And so, it's talking about Judas and it's just talking about the love that Jesus display to him at this meal. So I'm just going to read it for you. It's from this pastor named Nic Burleson, but it says "Think about this for a second, Jesus knew. He goes into that room with his disciples. He knows he is going to be betrayed. He knows it is Judas who will turn against him. He knows that he has been sold out for a handful of silver, stabbed in the back by one he has poured his life into. Yet in that room, hours before the death of Jesus, Judas ate too. Jesus fed Judas too. Jesus prayed for Judas too. Jesus washed Judas' his feet too. I struggle fed them that kind of love. A love that would feed the mouth that deceived you.

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A love that would wash the treasonous feet of the traitor. A love that could forgive even the vilest of betrayals. I honestly struggle to comprehend it and then suddenly I realized that I'm Judas and in that moment, I'm so thankful and altogether overwhelmed that Judas ate too." Right and so, it's just this

picture of Jesus and this tremendous love that he has where he is breaking bread, and he's sharing it with Judas who was his betrayer and with Peter who's about to deny him and with all the rest of the disciples who were also about to deny him in and about to run away, right? Every time I read that, it just makes me stop and it just makes me ponder and think on the love of Christ and how in that moment so close to leading up to the cross instead of shunning Judas or instead of kicking him out or excluding him, Jesus sits down and shares a meal with him.

Right? And so, the thing that hit me was that Jesus sitting down and sharing this meal with Judas and with Peter and with the rest of his disciples that are about to deny him, that's not the miracle of the meal. The miracle of the meal is what that meal represented and not only the representation of it, but for what actually happened right after it. And so, in Verse 22 when Jesus is sharing the bread he says "take, eat, this is my body" and in Verse 23 when Jesus shares the cup with them. He says, "this is my blood that establishes the covenant, it is shared for many."

So, in that moment, Jesus is not just sharing his meal with Judas and expressing his love in that tangible way but the true miracle of the meal is that he is sharing that bread saying, "Judas this is my body broken for you." He's sharing this cup saying, "Peter, this is my blood that establish his covenant for you." He says, "Matthew, this is my blood that is shed for you." And so again, remember that Judas betrayed Jesus, Peter denied him not once but three times and then all of his disciples end up running away and turning their backs on to him.

He knows all of this is about to happen and what he chooses to do is to not just share his bread but to share his life that is the miracle of the meal and so the whole time during the meal and afterwards, the Bible says that they're singing Psalms and so I looked it up in the songs that they were singing are Psalms from Chapter 113 to 118. These are Psalms praising God and worshiping God and declaring what God has done and who he is and just giving him glory and just honoring Him and so while Jesus could have been at this meal full of bitterness, full of anger, full of hurt. He's demonstrating love. While could have excluded others and shut them out, he invited them in.

While he could have rebelled against his father, he submitted to him and he responded in thanksgiving and in Praise. While he

knows that Judas is about to betray him and Peter and the rest of the disciples are about to deny him, Jesus shows us the miracle of this meal. He tells them knowing all of this, he says, "this is my body broken for you, this is my blood shed for you." This is the miracle of the meal that Jesus is not just giving this meal and sharing this meal but he's giving his life.

And while Jesus knows the pain that he's about to endure, it's not just the physical component of the pain but it is the complete wrath of God. He could have cursed God for it but again, he humbled himself before God. He loved God. He adored God. He thanked God. He praised God. He said, "Father not my will but yours be done." He responded and thanksgiving. He responded and worship. He responded in complete surrender and what's interesting is that it's not just Judas that betrays Jesus and it's not just the disciples that deny him like I mentioned before we all do that every single day.

Like the quote from the pastor that I read earlier. I am Judas too. We are all Judas, we are all Judas, right? In the same way that Jesus broke the bread and shared the wine with Peter and with Judas and with the rest of his disciples knowing exactly what they were going to do to him he does that exact same thing for us. Not only does he invite us to eat with him and to fellowship with him and to partake of a meal with him. He lets us know that this is his body broken for me.

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This is his body broken for us. This is his blood shed for us and this is Jesus. This is the miracle of the meal because it is Jesus on the cross that is what makes us no longer at enmity with God because while we were full of sin, while we were Judas or we were Peter, while we were James and John, the rest of the disciples. While we were the ones denying Jesus and betraying him for 30 pieces of silver, Jesus stood in our place. He stood in my place. He stood in your place on that cross. He became our sin to demonstrate the love that he has to his betrayers, to his deniers, to his enemies. This is the miracle of the meal that he knew this would take place so soon. He knew what was happening, but he chose to love those who were against him.

He chose to break bread for those who would deny him with those who would turn him over. He chose to drink wine with the

very people that he spent so much of his time with that ended up leaving him. He chose to give up himself. He chose to pour out his love, pour out his life, loving his enemies. He chose to pour out his life serving his enemies. He chose to pour out his life dying for his enemies which includes you and it includes me because at one time we were hostile with God, right?

But Jesus poured out his life for us so God's wrath will not be poured out on us. Jesus took that wrath from us so that we can live with him in freedom and with love. That we could be with him forever. That we might become new creatures, that we might be brought into this new covenant with him that through his broken body and through his blood that was shed that he made a way for us to be saved, to be redeemed, to be delivered.

That sin might no longer have a hold on us that we might not always be betrayers of Jesus. That we might not continually deny him, that we can come into this loving full relationship with him that he has intended from before the beginning of time. Jesus came and he loved his enemies, he loved us, and he stood in our place and he took on our death that we might be made right with him. That we will be able to start living the way that he has for us to live by the power of the Holy Spirit that he has given to us.

He gave us this miracle at this meal so that when we think following Jesus' hard that we will remember the way that Jesus loved us when we were his enemies. That we would think that loving others is hard. That we will remember the way that Jesus loved Judas that we might respond in the way that mirrors that. And that when we think that people don't deserve our love or that we should only love the people that we agree with or the ones that we get along with or the one that we think deserve it that we were remember that Jesus came for us when we did not deserve it.

He gave his life for us. He gave his life as a ransom for many and so I'm just going to leave here with verses, these verses are very well-known. I'm sure you can recite them but I think it just so clearly gives us this picture of what this really looks like. It's so clearly gives us what this miracle of this meal is and it's so clearly shows us that Jesus loved his enemies and died on the cross for all of them. And so the first one is John 3:16 where it says "For God so loved the world" not for God so loved believers

or God so loved my family or God so loved my friends or God so loved America. God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes not only of this one group believes but whoever believes this invitation has been made open and available to us all that whoever believes in Jesus would not perish but have eternal life. Jesus invites us to have eternal life with him. He invites his enemies to have eternal life with him. That is the miracle of that meal. He is exchanging this promise with his enemies saying take my body, this is for you.

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Take my blood, this is for you. You are my enemy but I love you. And the other verse that I want to read is Romans 5:6-8. And it says, "You see, at just the right time when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly." Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person. Though for a good person, someone might possibly dare to die but God demonstrates his own love for us in this. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

So maybe remember that the miracle of the meal is not just Jesus breaking bread and sharing wine with Judas who was going to betray him and with Peter who was going to deny him. But it is Jesus breaking his body, pouring out his blood for us who deny him and betray him every single day.

He did that for us. He did that so that we might be made new, that we might be able to live with him freely in free relationship with the God of the universe. Jesus did that for us. That is a true miracle of the meal that Jesus still loved his enemies and now he gives us the power to go do the same that the world would know that we are Jesus' disciples by the way that we love. Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother and sister, you need the Word.

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