

NARRATOR

The scene you are beholding this evening, is on the night of the Passover Supper in a small upper room, in a home in Jerusalem, Jesus, surrounded by His disciples, is breaking the bread of their farewell meal.

Visualize, if you will, Christ as the center of all interest: Christ addressed His disciples with these words, "One of you will betray Me". Love, Terror, Grief, and Amazement find expression in the cry of his disciples, "Lord is it I?"

The Tableau here presented, represents DiVinci's beautiful picture which was painted on the walls of a monastary dining room in Milan, Italy.

The disciples sit in four groups of three each. In their bewilderment, the disciples have drawn away for the moment, so that Christ sits alone.

(A SLIGHT PAUSE? AS THE PICTURE COMES INTO BEING.)

And supper being ended, the Devil having put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him. Jesus, knowing that the Father had Given all things to his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God, He riseth from the supper and laid aside His garments, And took a towel, and girded himself. After that he purth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples feet, and to wipe them with the towel where with he had girded himself. Then cometh he to Simon Peter? and Peter saith unto him, "Lord, Dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered him and said unto him, what I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter, Peter saith unto him, " Thou shalt never wash my feet," Jesus

VOICE

VOICE:

Know ye what I have done unto you? Ye call me Master and Lord; and ye say well, for so I am. If I then your Lord and Master have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet, for I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his Lord; neither is he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. Action by Peter to John. All disciples act, action to each other, then John speaks.

JOHN:

"Lord, is it I?"

VOICE:

"He it is to whom I shall give the sop: (Action by Judas)

VOICE:

"That which thou doest, do quickly" (Judas leaves)

VOICE:

"Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him."

"A new commandment I give unto thee, that ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know ye are my disciples, if ye love one another."

PETER:

"Lord whiter goest Thou?"

VOICE:

Whither I go, thou can'st now follow me now, but thou shalt follow me afterward."

PETER:

"Lord, why cannot I follow Thee now? I will lay down my life for Thy sake."

VOICE:

"Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake: Verily, I say unto thee, the cock shall not crow till thou hast denied me thrice. Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know and the way ye know."

THOMAS:

"Lord we know not whither thou goest, and how can we know the way?"

VOICE:

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father, and from henceforth ye know Him and have seen Him."

PHILIP:

"Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

VOICE:

"Have I been with you so long a time, and yet ye say ye know me not" Philip, he that hath seen me hath seen the Father, then why dost thou say, show us the Father? Verily, verily, I say unto Thee He that believeth on me, the works that I do, shall he also do, and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto my Father.

Pause - lights are dimmed, Judas returns, and as each disciple speaks light is thrown on him. While each one speaks, others act naturally, eating or speaking with one another.

ANDREW

I am Andrew. I was a fisherman on the sea of Galilee. Then I met John the Baptist at the River Jordan. His challenging message and personality caused me to follow him until one-never-to-be forgotten day when Jesus appeared upon the scene. John the Baptist said--"Behold the Lamb of God." I knew at once I found the Messiah, and I followed Jesus. John and I were the first of the twelve to follow the call of Christ. Then I hurried to find my brother, Simon Peter, and I said to him - - "We found the Messiah." Peter believed and he followed the Master. When Jesus fed the five thousand people, I drew his attention to the lad with the five loaves and two fishes. For some years I worked with the church in Jerusalem Later I carried the Gospel to the fierce barbarians of Scythia. At Petrae, a city of Achaia, I was scourged and then crucified by the leaders of the procounsul. Aegeas - martyr for Christ. I gave Him all that I had; I served Him with all the talents I possessed; and I sacrificied my life for His cause; - but I received more than I gave.

BARTHOLOMEW

I am Bartholomew, but some call me Nathaniel. My first entrance into sacred history is found in my association with Philip, who told me he had found the expected Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. I replied to Philip - "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" But Philip insisted - "Come and see." I followed him to see the Nazarene. When Jesus saw us coming, He looked upon me and said, "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no guile." His very words and countenance pierced me through and through and I realized I was standing before the King of Kings. I was surprised that He knew me and I said: "Whence knowest Thou me"? Jesus answered me and said; "When thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee." My heart leaped within me, and I found expression only in these words - "Thou art the Son of God: Thou art the King of Israel." I knew within my heart that He was the Christ and that I, Bartholomew, needed the Christ. I followed Him as one of the twelve Apostles studying at His feet for nearly three years. After He ascended into Heaven, I labored with the other disciples in Jerusalem. Later I carried the Gospel to Armenia where I became a martyr for Christ. The enemies of Christ flayed me and hung me on a cross: they put an end to my earthly ministry, but they could not destroy my soul which lives today in the mansions of Heaven with Christ my Saviour.

answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me,
"Simon Peter saith unto him, "Lord, not my feet only, but
also my head and my hands". Jesus saith unto him, "He that is
washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every
wit; and ye are clean but not all". For he knew who should
betray him.

Therefore saith he "Ye are not all clean, So after he
had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was
set down again, He saith unto them.

PETER

→ Voice

I am Simon Peter. I was a fisherman when my brother, Andrew brought me to Jesus. When Jesus saw me, he said, "Thou shalt be called CEPHAS," meaning a rock or "stone", the Greek word for which is Peter. About a year later by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus called me to be one of his full-time helpers. I am perhaps the best known of the twelve apostles because I was the spokesman after our Master ascended into Heaven. I was impetuous, and my impulse of spirit cause me to do and say many things for which I was very sorry. It was I who boasted that I would never forsake Jesus, and then in the face of danger I cursed and denied my Savior thrice. When Jesus asked "Whom do men say that I the son of Man am?" I made the great confession; "Thou are the Christ, The Son of the Living God." Jesus answered, "Thou are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it - I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." In the Garden of Gethsemane, when the mob came after Jesus, I tried to show my loyalty by cutting the ear off the High Priest's servant; Jesus rebuked me saying - "Put up again thy sword into its place: for all they that take the sword shall perish by the sword." When they arrested the Master, I fled in terror, but after the resurrection John and I were the first apostles to visit the empty tomb. And I was the first of twelve to whom Jesus appeared after His resurrection. On the day of Pentecost the Lord spoke to me and converted three thousand souls. The

New Testament contains two books that I wrote; the first and second Epistles of Peter. My earthly labors were brought to an end in 67 A.D., when I died near the City of Rome, crucified as a Martyr of Christ; at my own request, I was crucified with my head downward because I felt myself unworthy to resemble the Christ in His death. My life was like the shifting sand until I found the Christ; in Him I found my true and sure foundation. I am happy that I followed Jesus for He made me to become a fisherman of men.

PHILIP

I am Philip. I came to the River Jordan to hear John The Baptist. There I met Jesus of Nazareth. He looked upon me and said -- "Follow me". I followed Jesus and later became His full-time helper. When I recognized Jesus as the Messiah, my heart leaped within me, and I ran to find Bartholomew, and brought him to Jesus. My ministry was not so outstanding as that of Peter and John, but I was faithful to my Master, and I led many to follow Christ. Before Jesus fed the five thousand, He asked me, "Whence are we to buy bread that these may eat?" He said this to prove me, for He knew what he would do. When Jesus made His closing address to His disciples before His crucifixion, it was I who made the request, "Lord show us the Father, and it will satisfy us." Jesus replied "Philip, he that hath seen me hath seen the Father." I went to Phrygia as a missionary and remained there for the remainder of my life; and when I finished my earthly task, I was buried in Hiarapolis. If I had to live my life over again, I would follow Jesus again; and would try to even more faithful than I was the first time.

Master whom I loved.

Lights are dimmed and tableau is again formed. Lights are put on posed tableau for a few minutes. This may be accompanied by fitting music. Lights fade out again.

JUDAS ISCARIOT

I am Judas Iscariot. I am known in all history as the traitor who sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver and who betrayed Him with a Kiss. I was a Judean, but it was in Galilee that I received my call to be a full time helper of Jesus. I was always a man of ambitious design: and I followed Jesus from mixed motives. I was a man of no mean ability; in fact I was the treasurer of the twelve, and I cherished the hope that when Jesus would establish His earthly kingdom I would receive a prominent position in His political order. When the crowd wanted to make Jesus King and He refused, I began to lose hope and became disillusioned. Then my old avarice and greed got the better of me. When Mary anointed the feet of Jesus, I protested; "Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?" I managed to conceal my true motives from my fellow disciples, but I could not fool the Master. Yet He was patient with me. Once He said, "Have I not chosen you twelve and one of you is a devil?" Jesus knew my motives but the other disciples did not surmise that I was a traitor. Finally, at the Last Supper, Jesus gave me the sop: then He said: "What thou doest, do quickly." Satan entered my heart; I immediately turned my back upon the Master and went out into the night. I sold Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. I led the mob to the Garden of Gethsamene, where we found Jesus, and I betrayed Him into the hands of the enemy with a kiss. When I kissed Jesus He called me "Friend". His words of love pierced me; my heart sank within me; and my face burned with the face of a traitor. A terrible revulsion seized me; the betrayal money seemed to burn my fingers. I took it back to the Jewish leaders who paid me. When they would not take it back I threw it a their feet. I saw that I

JAMES

I am James the Son of Zebedee, an elder brother of John. I was a fisherman until Jesus found me and called me to become his full-time helper. I was called a "son of thunder" in the early days of my ministry, because of my firey impetuous spirit. Well do I recall the Day John and I wanted fire to be sent out of Heaven to consume the Samaritan who refused the Master passage through the country. Jesus rebuked us saying, "The Son of Man came not to destroy men's lives, but to save them." Also the day when John and I came to Jesus asking for the chief seats of the Kingdom. But Jesus replied, "Ye know not what ye ask." Peter, John and I formed the inner circle of Jesus. He took the three of us upon the mountain of Transfiguration, and we were near Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. After Jesus ascended, I labored in Jerusalem and Judea for nearly fifteen years. I was known among my brethren for great christian zeal. Therefore, when Herod Agrippa put forth his hand to afflict certain leaders of the church, I became the first martyr from the original group of twelve apostles. I was beheaded with a sword, and my death fulfilled Jesus prophecy when He said, "the cup that I drink ye shall drink" - the cup of suffering. Though I had to pay the extreme penalty - a martyr of Christ - I would do it again. My experiences were far beyond my former anticipation or imagination. Christ's wonderful promises to those who are faithful have been generously fulfilled.

MATTHEW

I am Matthew the Publican. My business was to gather taxes for the Roman government in Capernaem. I heard marvelous reports of Jesus and I longed for an opportunity to talk with Him. One day as I sat counting the coins before me, He came by and drew my attention. His manner and personality moved me deeply. His eyes pierced me through and through. He looked upon me and spoke to me as though He knew me well. Then softly, yet urgently, He said; - "Follow Me". His winsome invitation generated so much confidence in me that I straightway arose and followed Him. I knew that He was not a mere man. I followed Jesus during the rest of His earthly ministry, and then I preached in Judea for a time. Later I preached in other fields and died a martyr in Ethiopia. I wrote my experiences with Jesus, what He did and taught, into the gospel of Matthew which bears my name. I gave up a good job to "Follow" Jesus, but my life really started when I met and followed Him.

JAMES THE LESS

I am James the Less, son of Alphaeus. History doesn't tell much about my life as an apostle, for most of the things that have been written about my discipleship have been lost. I was called by Jesus to become one of the twelve apostles. I answered His call and I followed Jesus as a true disciple. My faith in Christ was very great, and I remained loyal to my Master until the very end. When Jesus was crucified I was discouraged, and I thought our experience with the Messiah had been brought to a sad end. But His appearance in the Upper Room gave me a new faith; and on the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit gave me power to preach the Gospel with great joy and happiness. After Jesus ascended into Heaven, I labored in the church at Jerusalem. My earthly life was brought to an end as a Christian martyr; and I was stoned to death because I preached the Gospel of Christ and my body was laid to rest at Jerusalem.

THOMAS

I am Thomas, and my surname is Didymus, meaning "The Twin". Many call me "Doubting Thomas" - even though I am sometimes perplexed and wanted more evidence to substantiate my faith, my devotion to the Master was very sincere. I well remember when Jesus was being called to Bethany to heal Lazarus, how we apostles objected because we feared what the leaders of the Jews would do to Him. But when Jesus made it clear that He was determined to go to Bethany I said; 'Let us also go that we may die with Him.' When Jesus was giving his farewell address I asked Him the question "Lord, we know not where Thou goest; - how can we know the way?" It caused Jesus to reveal His purpose, and He said; "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me." When the risen Christ first appeared to the group of disciples gathered together in the Upper Room, I was not present. When I saw my fellow disciples again, they said; "He is risen!" I doubted their reports of having seen the risen Lord, and I said - "Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe." But when I saw Him with my own eyes, and when I heard Him speak my name, I was convinced. Then I made the great confession - "My Lord and my God." In later years I labored in India and Parthia. I rejoice today that I believed in the Master and that I gave my service to the King of Kings. I am happy that I followed His admonition, "Be not faithless, but believing." I gave my life as a martyr for faith in Jesus Christ and I would gladly do it again.

SIMON THE ZEALOT

I am Simon, the Canaanite, or Zealot. I belong to the order of Ardnet, fiery patriots - called Zealots, in Galilee. In the days of the enrollment we bitterly opposed the threatened increase in taxation and made open rebellion against Rome. But the revolt was quelled and our leader was put to death. Then one day I met Jesus of Nazareth. Something happened to me that day which changed my attitude toward Rome, toward God, and toward my fellowmen. It removed my inner tensions and gave me a new balance and poise which I never enjoyed before, a peace which passeth all understanding. I recognized in Christ the hope and answer of all Messianic prophecy. I could not help but follow Him because He was the greatest and best leader I ever saw and I eagerly became His disciple. Many years later I left Jerusalem to spread the Gospel among those who knew it not. I finally carried the good news to Britain where I suffered martyrdom for the Master, being crucified on a cross of dark northern fir. When the Lord called me to His heavenly home, my body was laid to rest where I had labored. My life with Christ has been a great joy. Gladly would I suffer for Him again.

could not undo what I had done - that I had sealed my doom, and I took the coward's way out - suicide. My tragic end is known to all the world.

JUDE or THADDAEUS

I am Thaddaeus. However, John in his gospel called me Judas or Jude and so does Luke, while Matthew refers to me as Lebbaous and as Thaddaeus. Therefore Biblical scholars often refer to me as the three-named apostle. The Bible doesn't tell much about my history which was probably lost. My home was in Galilee, and there I received my call to follow Jesus. You will recall that I asked the fourth question in our final discourse with Jesus before His Crucifixion, "Lord, how is it that Thou wilt manifest Thyself unto us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered; "If a man love me, he will keep my word." I was a missionary in Syria where King Abgar the Fifth became converted. He was probably the first Christian King in all history. As my Master lived and died for me, so I lived and followed Him. I would gladly face martyrdom for him.

JOHN

I am John, the beloved apostle of Christ, the brother of James and son of Zebedee, the fisherman. James and I were fishing partners of Peter and Andrew. I was a disciple of John the Baptist until I found one greater than he; "The Lamb of God." I was the youngest of the twelve apostles. In my earthly life and ministry Jesus referred to me as a "son of Thunder" because of my impulsive character and vehement temper. I was privileged to be one of the apostles who formed the inner circle of Jesus. I shall never forget the terrible day when Jesus was crucified. Though all of us fled when Jesus was arrested, I returned to be near Him at his trial and when he was crucified. I was rewarded for my loyalty for the Master gave His mother into my keeping. On the very night in which He was betrayed, He served the first Lord's Supper, and I sat at one side of Jesus, leaning on His breast; Peter and I made the preparation for the Last Supper. On the resurrection morning, it was I who out ran Peter to the tomb. Under God's inspiration I wrote the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation. The Book of Revelation was written from the vision which was received while I was on the Isle of Patmos, where I was banished because of my faith in Jesus. As a result of my training under the Master, I grew in the Christian graces and knowledge of Christ: I was no longer called a "Son of Thunder: but rather an apostle of love. I cherished the new title which the New Testament gives me, "The disciple whom Jesus loved". Peter was a more aggressive leader than I; but he had no greater zeal for the Master's work than I; nor no greater love for the Master than I. The closing years of my life were spent at Ephesus where I gathered and taught my disciples. I was the last of the twelve apostles to bear witness to Christ; and I lived almost to the close of the first century. Then I went with the