

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 monastery 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.)

The Devil had already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus. But Jesus knew that the Father had given all things to his hands, and that he was from God, and was going to God. He rose from the supper, laid aside His garments, and tied a towel around himself. After that He poured water into a basin. He began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

Then he came to Simon Peter. Peter said to Him, "Lord, dost thou wash my feet?"

Jesus answered him and said, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Peter said to Him, "Lord, you will never wash my feet."

Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, then you will have no part with me."

"Simon Peter said unto him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head."

Jesus said unto him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you."

After He had washed their feet, He put on his robe, and returned to the table. He said to them

TURN MIKE TOWARDS DISCIPLES

TURN LIGHTS BACK ON AFTER
FINAL POSE.

Lights down

Lights back on if needed

Voice: “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. “Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.”

Action by Peter and John. All disciples act, action to each other, then John speaks.

John: “Lord, is it I?”

Voice: “It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.”

Action by Judas

Voice: “Do quickly what you are going to do.”

Judas leaves

Voice: “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Peter: “Lord, whither goest thou?”

Voice: “Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterward.”

Peter: “Lord why cannot I follow Thee now? I will lay down my life for Thy sake.”

Voice: “Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times. Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas: “Lord we know not whither thou goest, and how can we know the way?”

Voice: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

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

Voice: "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the 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.

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 fiery 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.

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 also 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.

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.

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 Hierapolis. If I had to live my life over again, I would follow Jesus again; and would try to be even more faithful than I was the first time.

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 the youngest of the twelve apostles. 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 of side of Jesus, leaning on His breast. 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 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 of Christ; and I lived almost to the close of the first century. Then I went with the Master whom I loved.