



Wycliffe

THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS



A LENTEN DEVOTIONAL



*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness
to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days
and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.*

— Matthew 4:1-2 (NLT)

Lent is a time of spiritual renewal and reflection that represents the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert before beginning his ministry. There is a multitude of traditions and customs associated with Lent, but many people give up a specific food or vice for 40 days as a way to practice humility and repentance before Easter.

Maybe Lent has always been a part of your Easter season, or maybe you've never observed the tradition. Whether or not you give up something for

Lent, you can still spend the 40 days before Easter preparing your heart and mind by reflecting on some of the things Jesus said in the key moments of his final hours on earth.

This devotional has six entries to represent each week of Lent. As you prepare to celebrate death's defeat and the hope of salvation this Easter, take the time to reflect on some of the final statements Jesus made and discover the powerful lessons he delivered with each word.

A black and white photograph of a wine glass and a loaf of bread on a tablecloth. The wine glass is in the upper left, and the loaf of bread is in the lower right. The background is dark, and the tablecloth is light. A red brushstroke is at the top.

REFLECTION I

THE LAST SUPPER

Do this in remembrance of me.

— Luke 22:19b (NLT)

Jesus' final meal wasn't a particularly joyous one. The table was set, but there weren't any decorations. The menu wasn't elaborate. The disciples didn't chip in to buy the ultimate thank-you gift.

But the Last Supper wasn't uneventful either. Much to Peter's surprise, Jesus told the disciple that he would deny him three times that night (Luke 22:34). Jesus silenced the disciples when they started arguing about who would be the greatest among them (Luke 22:24). And in the ultimate dinner party diss, Judas left early to finalize his plans to betray the guest of honor (John 13:30).

One of the most notable events from the Last Supper is the tangible way Jesus gave the disciples, and us, to remember him. Communion allows us to prayerfully remember Jesus' sacrifice — that

his body was broken for us and that his blood was shed for us (Luke 22:19-20). As we participate, we can reflect on everything the Lord has done, knowing that we're following Jesus' instruction to "do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19b, NLT).

The disciples might have hung on Jesus' every word because they realized that nothing would ever be the same again after that night. Or maybe they didn't recognize the gravity of the evening at all. Whether or not they understood in the moment, we know what happened and how important Jesus' sacrifice is to us.

We can hang on Jesus' words at the Last Supper and honor the Lord "until the Kingdom of God has come" (Luke 22:18b, NLT) by participating in communion and remembering his sacrifice.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- » If you knew you were going to have a last supper, what would you eat, who would you invite and what would you say to your guests?
- » Do you think the disciples experienced confusion at the Last Supper? What are some things they might not have understood?
- » Why is it important for Christians to participate in communion?