

# We Are the Reason!

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When we think of our Lord and Savior—and recall the suffering, humiliation, and crucifixion, we are compelled to ask—Why did it have to be like that?

Why did our Lord and Master have to go through that dreadful experience—was there not some other way!

And then we realize—*We are the reason, that He gave His life. We are the reason that He suffered and died.*

It was the Father's plan from the beginning to *ransom, redeem, and restore* a world going in the wrong direction to a very wrong destination! It was the plan put in place by the Father and carried out by the Son!

We need to portray the scene in our mind—A group of friends gather in an Upper Room.

Mealtimes gave the opportunity to speak candidly about events of the day and of important matters at hand. Friends often ate meals together and talked openly about relevant issues.

These close friends were feeling very discouraged because they sensed that something upsetting was going to happen—they didn't know exactly what!

They *did* know that this would be a Last Meal with the Master! That in itself was upsetting!

Jesus had planned this occasion to have a Last Supper with His best friends and intimate companions.

He had told them: “*Look for a man carrying a pitcher of water.*” This would be unusual because the carrying of water was normally a task for women.

This *man with a pitcher of water* would lead them to an Upper Room—perhaps John Mark father's place, which would be a guest room on the flat roof of the house.

These friends then proceed to be seated around a low table, with Simon Peter at the Master's left, and John on His right.

Jesus suddenly breaks the silence—WEY **Luke 22:15** “*Earnestly have I longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.*”

His words shocked them—as Jesus takes a loaf of bread, gives thanks, and breaks it into small portions. AV **Luke 22:19** “*This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.*”

Jesus uses these symbols to remind them and everyone thereafter of His sacrifice to redeem them for His Father's kingdom—*We are the reason* He came—to fulfill His Father's plan and save a world lost in sin.

Jesus *knew* how quickly the human heart forgets; He *knew* how dangerous the devil can be, so He uses common, everyday foods like

bread and grapes, to jog our memories; to help us remember *why He came*—to save us from the flames.

He then tells them **22:20**: “*This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.*”

Jesus has this quiet time around a dinner table to remind them of His deep love for everyone! *To a world that was lost, He gave all He could give—to show us the reason to live.*

The Lord doesn't want anyone to forget what He did—*We are the reason that He suffered and died*—He came as the only One who could *do* what *had* to be *done*—He came to complete the plan His Father put in place.

We must *never* forget what He did for us—as it is the very *foundation* of faith—our *future* rests on that sacrifice!

Jesus asks only that we commemorate this occasion on a regular basis because *We are the reason that He gave His life.*

And now we have a reason to *live for Him and to never look back to what our attitudes had been; and what our life used to be.* Everything is now new, different, and converted!

Jesus had told His apostles previously—“*We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled.*”

*He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again*” **Luke 18:31-33** NIV.

They did not want to hear that, but the plan was already in place, and it would have to be completed.

Outside the night was quiet—it was as if the city *held its breath*. The sky grew dark as the tragic hour grew close.

Inside, these good friends converse, and Jesus continues to teach. They are again startled when He stands up, takes a towel and a basin, and begins to wash their feet.

This, they thought, would be *their* task, but in doing this task for them, Jesus showed true humility to follow.

**John 13:1** WEY “*Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father; and having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.*”

Jesus finishes the task and again takes His place at the table. All eyes are focused on Him as He makes another shocking statement, “*In solemn truth I tell you that one of you will betray me*” **Matthew 26:21**.

Almost afraid to say anything they ask—one by one, “*Lord, it is I?*” **23** “*The one who has dipped his fingers in the bowl with me, is the man who will betray me.*”

Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him and that he had been plotting with the high priest Caiaphas for days.

Jesus took a piece of bread, dipped it in the bowl, and handed it to Judas. Slowly, the disciple gets up and goes out into the night.

The eleven are silent for a *long* time—Jesus knew that in a matter of hours they would be separated from Him, so He wants to explain more about the plan that His Father has put in place.

In a low, soft voice, Jesus explains. True feelings are written at the *end* of a letter; the

most heartfelt words are spoken before the parting of a loved one—this is a moment of *quiet intimacy* as Jesus gives these unforgettable and parting words of comfort to His closest friends...

**John 13:34** “*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you.*”

He reminds **15:5** “*I am the vine, you are the branches. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. 17 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.*”

Jesus could have escaped the cross because no one compelled Him to go to Jerusalem—and indeed His disciples and friends had urged Him *not* to go.

But the Father's plan was in place, and the Son would carry through with His part...there was no other way. It was for *that purpose* He had come.

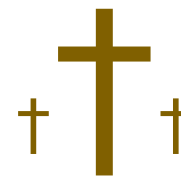
This giving of *Himself* should enable us to learn more about giving of *ourselves*—and what *that* means.

On that dark and ominous day, Jesus dies on a cross to show us the meaning of love with no strings attached. It was divine love to the max!

And lest we forget—*We are the reason that He gave His life. We are the reason that He suffered and died. To a world that was lost, He gave all He could give, to show us the reason to live.*

We cannot allow that momentous event go by without a permanent *change* in our heart. Jesus finished His part and He willingly pays our debt!

Now it is *our* turn and *our* choice—we are the reason He came—let us not allow that amazing love toward us go by without a huge change in our heart!



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