

Luke 22:14-30

Often as adults, there is a sense of repetition when it comes to Christmas. It is easy to get caught up in all that has to be done. Our to do lists get long and often overwhelming. And what is worse, all that we have done we must do again. It does not matter that we sent out 150 Christmas cards and baked 12 dozen cookies last year. We must do it again. In this repetition we often get stuck in the task rather than remembering the season. We begin to think we know what is happening and what needs to happen. We have very specific expectations regarding our Christmas season.

In this text, the disciples must have felt the same as we do. They gathered in the upper room expecting the same Passover that they had experienced from their youth. It must have been an utter surprise to hear Jesus take the words of the ancient Passover and make them his own. "This is my body..." I wonder what these disciples must have had running through their heads when their expectations were not only unmet radically altered. I would imagine they were confused, maybe even shocked. "What is this guy doing?" they must have thought.

I would imagine this confusion became even greater when Jesus stated within their celebration of the Passover that they must be like children. I would guess that the disciples were thinking something like this: "Children, the greatest in the kingdom of God? But we have worked so hard and given up so much, Jesus!"

Jesus would say the same to us in our Christmas celebration. We must also be like children. Think about the children in your life. Think about a son or daughter, a niece or nephew, a grandchild, a neighbor, or a Sunday school kid. Everything is new. The repetition is not old, but exciting. They inherently trust that this season of Advent and Christmas is something exciting and beyond themselves. Not only does Jesus want us to be like children in our attitudes of humility and innocence, but also in our attitudes of joy and wonder. This is true all of the time, but we must be reminded, especially in this season.

Having these qualities of wonder, innocence, humility and joy is often against our human nature. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can do this. And what a great time it is for us to ask for an attitude of a child now. This is a time when as children of the most high God, we can wait for something new and expect the unexpected. And in this comes great joy! Jesus came! Jesus comes! Jesus will come again! Thanks be to God!

Prayer: Lord God, we thank you that You desire to do a new thing this season and in us. We ask today for You to give us the heart of a child, Your child. Help us to see Your work in each day specifically in this season. Thank you for Your work in our lives and the world around us. Open our eyes to see it. Help us to not only expect the unexpected, but to seek it and praise You for it. Amen

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