

Sermon Outline
“Remaining in the Faith”
Matthew 26:20-35

I. The Last Supper narrative framework

A Denial due to unbelief vv. 20-25

B The sustaining bread v. 26

B¹ The redemptive wine vv. 27-30

A¹ Denial due to fear vv. 31-35

II. Establishing a new sacrament

A new meal for a new covenant (celebrated a day early, no lamb)

Sequence: took, blessed, broke, gave

Cf. 14:19; 15:36

Sustaining bread – Jesus is bread indeed Jn 6:48-58

“This is my body” – sacramental reality

Redemptive wine – “My blood poured out” Ex 24:3-8

Shed for many (*cf.* 20:28; Is 53:11)

For remission of sins Jer 31:31-34; Heb 9:11-26

I will drink it again with you vv. 29, 32

The sign of new life (*cf.* 16:21; 17:9, 23; 20:19)

III. Betrayal and denial vv. 20-25 (*cf.* 14-16)

A. The role of Judas Ps 41:9

As Ahithophel betrayed David, so Judas (II Sam 17-19)

Already deeply involved in the plot vv. 14-16

Motive may have been complex (avarice, envy, politics)

But unbelief is the central fact Jn 6:64-71; 17:12

Prototype of those who see but turn away (27:4, 5)

B. The role of the Eleven vv. 31-35

Prototype of those who believe, but struggle (*cf.* Mk 9:24)

Their incredulity at the statement of v 21

The citation of Zech 13:7 presupposes v. 9.

They scatter, but shall be brought back (*contra* Judas)

The blood of the covenant has redeemed them.

The bread of the covenant sustains them.