

The Mind of Christ before his Passion



Communion 4-6-24

Luke 22:14–16 (KJV) — 14 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.
15 And he said unto them, *With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer:* 16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

desire = ἐπιθυμία (*epithumia*); desire, passionate longing, lust. The noun form.

desired = ἐπιθυμέω (*epithumeō*) The Verb form. “to have a strong desire to do or secure someth.”

Philippians 1:23 (KJV) — 23 For I am in a strait
betwixt two, having a *desire* to depart, and to be with
Christ; which is far better:

1 Thessalonians 2:17 (KJV) — 17 But we, brethren, being taken from you for a short time in presence, not in heart, endeavoured the more abundantly to see your face with great **desire**.

1 Timothy 3:1 (KJV) — 1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he **desireth** a good work.

Galatians 5:24 (KJV) — 24 And they that are Christ's
have crucified the flesh with the affections and **lusts**.

As they were gathered about the table, He said in tones of touching sadness, (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 643.1)

In this hour of trial Christ's human nature longed for sympathy. In the supreme agony of his soul, he came to his disciples with a yearning desire to hear some words of relief from those whom he had oft blessed and comforted and shielded in sorrow and distress; for the law of kindness was ever on his lips. The One who had always had words of comfort for them was now suffering superhuman agony, and *he craved sympathy*; he longed to know that they were praying for him and for themselves.

(Signs of the Times, June 3, 1897, par. 2a)

How dark seemed the malignity of sin! No earthly potentate can show himself more keenly observant of his subjects than was Jesus. He was jealous for his law as no earthly king can be, for he was the king, eternal, invisible, immortal. *If he could only know that his disciples understood and appreciated the terrible temptation to let the human race bear the consequences of its own guilt, while he stood innocent before God, he would be strengthened.* (*Signs of the Times*, June 3, 1897, par. 2b)

The human heart longs for sympathy in suffering. This longing Christ felt to the very depths of His being. In the supreme agony of His soul *He came to His disciples with a yearning desire to hear some words of comfort* from those whom He had so often blessed and comforted, and shielded in sorrow and distress. (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 687.3)

*No one in the world ever longed more earnestly for appreciation and fellowship than did Christ. He hungered for sympathy. His heart was filled with a longing desire that human beings might appreciate the gift of God to the world, and honor Him by believing His words and speaking forth His praise. “God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). (*This Day With God*, p. 189)*

Christ knew that the time had come for Him to depart out of the world, and go to His Father. And having loved His own that were in the world, He loved them unto the end. He was now in the shadow of the cross, and the pain was torturing His heart. *He knew* that He would be deserted in the hour of His betrayal.

He knew that by the most humiliating process to which criminals were subjected He would be put to death. *He knew* the ingratitude and cruelty of those He had come to save. *He knew* how great the sacrifice that He must make, and for how many it would be in vain. (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 643.2a)

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- ✱ he would be deserted in the hour of his betrayal.
 - ✱ The humiliating fashion he would be put to death
 - ✱ of the ingratitude and cruelty of those he had come to save
 - ✱ the great sacrifice that he must make, and for how many it would be in vain
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John 8:29 (KJV) — 29 And he that sent me is with me: *the Father hath not left me alone*; for I do always those things that please him.

John 16:32 (KJV) — 32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and *yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.*

Matthew 27:45–46 (KJV) — 45 Now from the sixth hour there was *darkness over all the land* unto the ninth hour. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

**1 John 4:8 (KJV) — 8 He that loveth not knoweth not
God; for **God is love.****

He [Christ] might naturally have been overwhelmed with the thought of His own humiliation and suffering. But He looked upon the twelve, who had been with Him as His own, and who, after His shame and sorrow and painful usage were over, would be left to struggle in the world. His thoughts of what He Himself must suffer were ever connected with His disciples. He did not think of Himself. *His care for them was uppermost in His mind.*

(The Desire of Ages, p. 643.2b)

Jesus met his disciples in the upper chamber, and they soon perceived that something weighed heavily upon his mind. At length, in a voice of touching sadness, he addressed them thus: “With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer.” He clearly foresaw the events which were to transpire in the near future. His heart was wrung with grief as *he contemplated the ingratitude and cruelty of those he had come to save*, and saw pictured before him the terrible fate that awaited them in consequence.

(The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 3, p. 83.2)
