

Jesus Made A Vow That Involves You

I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the Kingdom comes

LUKE 22:18

Written by Bill Perkins

Jesus made a vow in the Upper Room
that's easy to overlook.

And that's no wonder.
After all, it sits
in the shadow of the foot washing,
the bread,
the cup,
the honor given Judas,
the High Priestly Prayer.

But the vow is there-
waiting to be heard,
waiting to be understood.

Jesus sent Peter and John to prepare the Passover (Luke 22:8).
They didn't know the address-
only that when they saw a man with a water jar,
they were to follow him.

A quiet signal.
A hidden meeting.
A room no one else knew.

But Jesus had secretly arranged everything.
The room furnished.
The cushions placed.
The table set.
The moment protected.

He kept the location from the others,
including Judas,
because Judas was searching for a private moment
away from the crowds.

If he had known the place,
the meal might never have happened.
The vow might never have been spoken.

They reclined around a triclinium-
a U-shaped table with no "head,"
only the host's place near the end.

Jesus took that place.

John leaned in on His right.
Judas reclined on His left.

His betrayer on one side,
the disciple He loved on the other.

And in that protected room,
before the meal ended
and before Gethsemane began,
Jesus lifted the cup
and made His vow:

"I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine
until the Kingdom comes" (Luke 22:18).

His last sip of wine
until the day He celebrates with us.
Not because He couldn't drink.
But because He's waiting-

waiting for His Bride,
waiting for the family to be complete,
waiting for joy that can be shared,
not merely remembered.

When we take the cup, we remember Him.
But here's something you may not know about Jesus-
when He refuses the cup,
He remembers us.

We drink in remembrance.
He waits in anticipation.
We taste the wine.
He waits for the wedding.

What does it mean that Jesus has tied His future joy to your arrival?

You may not know this about Jesus:
He made a vow, and it involves you.

His vow says I matter to Him.
He's not celebrating without me.
He's waiting-patiently-
for the day we raise the cup together.

Father, I pray Jesus' vow steadies my heart
and deepens my hope.
Teach me to remember Him as He remembers me.
In Jesus' name, Amen.