



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

*“The Lord’s Supper is a remembrance that Christ paid the cost
so that our next meal would not be our last supper*

The Lord’s Supper

For 31 years, I have looked at Leonardo Ds Vinci painting The Last Supper several times a day. I even installed a dedicated outlet for its light to shine 24/7. It hangs at the bottom of our stairs. We have to look right at it as we are coming down the steps. For all those years the painting’s light served as a great night light for the very dark stairs. But even though, I have looked at the painting thousands and thousands of times, I never truly looked at it until now.

“The Last Supper is a late 15th-century mural painting by Leonardo da Vinci housed by the refectory of the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan. It is one of the world’s most recognizable paintings. The work is presumed to have been started around 1495–96 and was commissioned as part of a plan of renovations to the church and its convent buildings by Leonardo’s patron Ludovico Sforza, Duke of Milan. The painting represents the scene of the Last Supper of Jesus with his apostles, as it is told in the Gospel of John, 13:21. Leonardo has depicted the consternation that occurred among the Twelve Disciples when Jesus announced that one of them would betray Him.”¹

“Judas is wearing green and blue and is in shadow, looking rather withdrawn and taken aback by the sudden revelation of his plan. He is clutching a small bag, perhaps signifying the silver given to him as payment to betray Jesus, or perhaps a reference to his role within the 12 disciples as treasurer. He is also tipping over the salt cellar. This may be related to the near-Eastern expression to “betray the salt” meaning to betray one’s Master. He is the only person to have his elbow on the table and his head is also horizontally the lowest of anyone in the painting.”²

“Peter looks angry and is holding a knife, perhaps foreshadowing his violent reaction in Gethsemane during Jesus’ arrest. (If he only had turned that knife towards Judas.) Thomas is clearly upset; the raised index finger foreshadows his incredulity of the Resurrection. The painting contains several references to the number 3, which represents the Christian belief in the Holy Trinity. The Apostles are seated in groupings of three; there are three windows behind Jesus; and the shape of Jesus’ figure resembles a triangle.”³ Read more about the painting at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Last_Supper

“When we participate in the Lord’s Supper, we each eat in remembrance of Jesus. When we drink at the Lord’s Supper, we remember that Jesus’ blood was shed for us, and that His blood inaugurated the new covenant (Luke 22:19,20). Paul said, “Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes” (1 Cor 11:26). The Lord’s Supper, although a memorial of a death, is not a funeral, as if Jesus were still dead. ...Rather, Jesus has conquered death, and has set free all who were enslaved by a fear of death...It shows how much God loves us—so much that He sent His Son to die for us, so that our sins would be forgiven and we may live forever with Him. (John 3:16)”⁴

“When we participate: “Everyone should take a careful look at themselves before they eat the bread and drink from the cup” (1 Cor 11:28). When we examine ourselves, we often find sin. It is a reminder that we need Jesus in our lives. Only He can take our sins away. (1 John 1:9)”⁵

“When we participate, we are reminded of Jesus’ promise. There will be a great messianic banquet, a wedding supper of celebration. The bread and wine are miniature rehearsals of what will be the greatest victory celebration in all history. “Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes” (1 Cor 11:26).”⁶

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*“The Lord’s Supper is a reminder of what
Jesus did in the past, a symbol of our
present relationship with Him, and a
promise of what He will do in the future.”
Grace Communion International*



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