

**Family at table - Mother, Father, Ryan, Brad, Katie**

M: Time to eat. Katie, call everybody for dinner.

R: Sure smells good, Mom!

B: Are we having spaghetti again? Why can't we have something I like once in a while?

R: Like what? Dog chow?

F: Let's pray:

ALL: Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.

M: Ryan, would you please pass everything before you start eating?

K: Yeah, some of the rest of us want to eat too.

R: But I'm hungry.

K: We got our test back in math. I got a 91.

F: Good for you, Katie. All that studying the other night really paid off.

K: There was only one problem that I didn't get. But most of the rest of the class didn't get it either.

R: I made three baskets in gym today, and our team won. We slaughtered them.

B: I'll bet the other team was all made up of midgets.

M: Brad, you're sure in a bad mood tonight, first complaining about supper and then picking on your brother. What happened to you today?

B: Nothing much. School was boring. And now spaghetti. You know I don't like spaghetti. Why do you always favor Ryan and Katie.

M: Brad, your father and I try to be fair to each of you children. You are each different. We work hard to give each of you what you need.

B: Then why am I always the one who is waiting in the car while we are picking up Katie and Ryan? Why am I always the one who never gets his favorite food? Why are we always talking about their grades and their stuff? What can't you be fair to me?

F: Life is not fair, Brad.

B: But it is supposed to be.

F: But it is not. Lately I have been upset because I work so hard to provide for all of you and no one appreciates me either. I work all day and some nights too, and you all spend and spend and spend and now we can't even have a meal in peace without someone complaining. Just think how good you have it.

M: Would you two stop your complaining?

R: Pass the spaghetti.

K: I'm going to the mall tonight with Mary.

F: Spend, spend, spend.

M: What's wrong with this family. Why can't we be a good family like God wants us to be? Why can't there be peace?

*(Family freezes. A strolling narrator appears.)*

N: Sound familiar. The family table – a war zone. Do you think Mom was right? Do you think when Jesus was with the family he chose, his disciples, that there was a peaceful meal? Let's take a look.

*(Move attention to table surrounded by disciples. Disciples chattering among themselves. Jesus enters and speaks.)*

J: I've had a deep desire to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. I can guarantee that I won't eat it again until it finds its fulfillment in the kingdom of God.

D#1: He's not going to eat until the end of the world? Is that what he means?

D#2: Maybe tonight we will be attacking the Roman soldiers and God will give us victory and everyone will know Jesus is the Messiah.

D#1: I can see us now, ruling over the whole world!

*(Jesus takes the cup and looks up to heaven.)*

J: I thank you, Father, for this fruit of the vine that brings joy to your children. Let my family, gathered here be reminded of the joy that you have planned for all your children when your kingdom will come. Amen.

J: *(speaking to the disciples):* Take this, and share it. I won't drink this wine until the kingdom of God comes.

D#3: I wonder why Jesus is giving us his cup – we each already have our own. Something is going on here.

D#4: Maybe he's just not thirsty.

D#3: No, he wants us to understand something.

J:       *(taking the loaf of bread and looking up to heaven):*  
Thank you Father for bread to sustain our lives and on this night to remind us of how you delivered your people from slavery in Egypt. As my family shares my bread, enable them to see how I am giving my life for them, my whole self for them.

J:       *(giving the loaf to the disciples one after another):* This is my body which is given for you. Remember me whenever you eat bread.

D#5:    Maybe he's fasting like he did before we met him, like a warrior might do before battle.

D#6:    I remember that, he was out in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights. He said Satan was testing him then. Do you think he's going to go out to battle Satan again?

D#5:    I'd rather he'd slaughter those soldiers down on the street.

D#6:    Or those priests over at the temple. They think God only listens to them.

J:       *(taking another cup – looking up to heaven):* I thank you Father for the promise you made through Abraham, and the promise you made through Moses. Now join this cup to the promise you will make through me. Let the wine that I share be my life that I've lived for them, my own lifeblood poured into them.

J:       *(passing another cup):* This cup that is poured out for you is the new promise made with my blood.

*(Jesus and the disciples freeze.)*

N:       Do you notice how different this meal was from that family we saw earlier? No squabbling. Though there was one thing alike – Jesus was providing for his family – just like the

mother and the father. I'll bet Jesus' family will really appreciate all that he is doing for them. Let's go back and listen.

J: The hand of the one who will betray me is with me on the table.

D#7: Who's he talking about? Do you think it is Peter?

D#1: Betray? To whom?

D#8: John has been acting kind of suspiciously lately.

D#9: I saw James talking with the Pharisees yesterday. They seem to want to silence Jesus.

D#1: I am not sure we can trust some of these guys who used to be tax collectors. Once a cheat, always a cheat.

D#4: Well, at least I didn't try to sell three-day old fish to widows and orphans. Some days I think I can still smell rotting fish when James and John and Peter and Andrew are around.

D#2: But Jesus called me first, before any of you had even heard of Jesus I was already talking with him.

D#7: But I have always understood the parables before any of the rest of you. Jesus is always explaining them to you.

D#5: Yeah sure. Then why didn't you ever speak up and explain them to us all.

D#7: I didn't want to show off.

D#3: Remember, when Jesus went up that mountain he only took Peter and John and I, and do you know what we saw: Jesus was shining like a messenger from God and.....

D#2: (*cutting him off*): Jesus told us to keep quiet about that, James.

J: Don't you understand all I've been teaching? You're acting like people who've never understood me, seeking to be more important than others. Don't be that way – the greatest among you will be like the youngest – if you want to lead then serve everyone else. Be like me – I gave you my cup, my bread – serve each other.

J: Don't worry about how important you are – in my kingdom you will be at my table. When I judge all the world, you will be there with me. There is enough love in me to go around.

J: Simon, Simon, Satan has demanded to have you apostles for himself. He wants to separate you from me as a farmer separates wheat from husks. But I have prayed for you.

D#1: Lord I am ready to go to prison with you and to die with you.

J: Before the rooster crows tonight three times you will say that you don't know me.

N: I guess some things never change. Sometimes in families it does not seem that there will be enough love to go around. Even after Jesus shared everything with them they still argued, they still failed him. Let's go back to see what is happening with our modern family:

K: Mom, I know it upsets you when we argue. But we are still family.

R: And we always start the meal asking Jesus to be here with us.

M: Maybe we should pray to him again now. Let's each pray one after another.

M: Dear Jesus, help us to love one another as you love us.

F: Help me to appreciate all that you provide for me and help me to share.

R: Thank you for giving me a healthy body Lord. And thank you for good food.

B: Thank you for food.

K: Thank you for all my friends, God. Help me to keep them and to always enjoy myself. And watch over Sally's mom who is sick.

ALL: Amen.