

# LENT DEVOTION

Austin Christian Fellowship of India (ACFI)

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Today we are observing the “Maundy Thursday.” It was the Thursday Night (the beginning of the next day (Friday) as per the Jewish calendar) on which our Lord was betrayed by Judas Iscariot and arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. In fact, Jesus allowed Himself to be arrested “to do the Will of the Father” – just like He prayed a few hours earlier on! “Jesus fell with His face to the ground and prayed: ‘My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will’” (Matthew 26:39). The righteous ones undergo pain, suffering, and even death when they, in their righteousness, allow ‘love and justice’ work together’ (Psalm 101:1 and John 3:16). “The Lord is righteous in all His ways and loving toward all He has made” (Psalms 145:17). Friends, the “Righteous One” allowed Himself to be betrayed and arrested so that He – the sinless One - can become the sin for you and I to die the death of a sinner. “God made Him (Jesus Christ) who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

It is the same night the Lord observed the ‘Pasca’ (the Jewish Festival) along with His disciples in the Upper Room. It was the same time Jesus instituted the “Lord’s Supper” (the Last Supper or Holy Communion or the Eucharist, as we call it) and commanded His disciples (and the Church) “to do this in remembrance of (Him) Me” (Luke 22:19). It is a constant reminder for the believer:

1. About the Righteousness of God imputed into the believer because of God’s Love and Justice.
2. About Christ’s death on the Cross (“this is my body given for you” (Luke 22:19) and “this cup is the New Covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you” (Luke 22:20)).
3. About the New Relationship (New Covenant) because it was inaugurated by the blood that was shed on the Cross which gives us “forgiveness of our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).
4. About the ‘eternal relationship’ which the righteous believer has because of the New Covenant. Because Jesus repeatedly (twice) mentioned that “for I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds its fulfillment in the Kingdom of God” (Luke 22:16—17).

Friends, this day is a wonderful reminder that you are made righteous by God and that your life should be marked by ‘love and righteousness.’ One cannot exist without the other in the life of the believer. Also, you are in eternal relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ beginning from now – the time when you came to faith in Jesus Christ.