

# Biblical Reflections on Christian Discipleship

*The Prayer Saint Francis of Assisi before the Crucifix*

Most High, glorious God,  
enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me  
true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity,  
sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out  
Your holy and true command. Amen.

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Matthew 16: 13-23 – Failed Discipleship

Mark 16: 1-20 – Failed Disciples Commissioned at Table

Genesis 3: 1-15 – Where are you? Who told you that?

1 John 4: 1-6 – Discerning the Spirits

John 2: 1-11 – Reading the Signs

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Matthew 26: 26-29

Mark 14: 22-25

Luke 22: 15-20

Now as they were eating, Jesus **took** bread, and **blessed**, and **broke** it, and **gave** it to the disciples and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”<sup>27</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you;<sup>28</sup> for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.<sup>29</sup> I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

And as they were eating, he **took** bread, and **blessed**, and **broke** it, and **gave** it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.”<sup>23</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it.<sup>24</sup> And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.<sup>25</sup> Truly, I say to you, I shall not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer;<sup>16</sup> for I tell you I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”<sup>17</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves;<sup>18</sup> for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”<sup>19</sup> And he **took** bread, and when he had **given thanks** he **broke** it and **gave** it to them, saying, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”<sup>20</sup> And likewise the cup after supper, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

**TAKE, BLESS (GIVE THANKS), BREAK and GIVE** in the accounts of the loaves and fishes

**Matthew 14: 13-21** – feeding 5,000

**Matthew 15: 32-39** – feeding 4,000

**Mark 6: 30-44** – feeding 5,000

**Mark 8: 1-9** – feeding 4,000

**Luke 9: 12-17** – feeding 5,000

**John 6: 1-14** – feeding 5,000

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**1 Corinthians 11: 23-26**

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, <sup>24</sup> and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup> In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

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**Luke 24: 13-35**

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, **14** and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. **15** And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, **16** but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. **17** He asked them, “What are you discussing as you walk along?” They stopped, looking downcast. **18** One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?” **19** And he replied to them, “What sort of things?” They said to him, “The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, **20** how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. **21** But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. **22** Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning **23** and did not find his body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. **24** Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see.” **25** And he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! **26** Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” **27** Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. **28** As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. **29** But they urged him, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. **30** And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. **31** With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. **32** Then they said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?” **33** So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them **34** who were saying, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!” **35** Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.