

TABOO



Part 9: Taboo at the Table

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Taboo at the Table: Mark 14:12-26

¹² On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

¹³ So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

¹⁶ The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

**At the first Communion there was taboo talk of
betrayal, tradition and conflict.**

The Twelve

Peter (the brash one)	James (the committed one)
John (the trusted one)	Andrew (the gathering one)
Philip (the outreach one)	Bartholomew (the honest one)
Matthew (the despised one)	James (the unknown one)
Thaddeus (the unknown one)	Simon (the political one)
Judas (the money/betraying one)	Thomas (the <u>dedicated/questioning</u> one)

A few moments with Thomas:

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it."

- John 20:24-25

Doubt and skepticism are not the same.

Skepticism thrives in isolation

Skepticism resists faith-based answers

Doubt is safe within a community (and they were all together)

Doubt is willing to live with an answer

John 20:26-29

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The centrality of Jesus unified his followers, brought them to the table, and allowed them to move beyond their taboos.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What were the dinner table rules in your family?
- 2) Which of the taboo topics we covered (politics, domestic violence, anger, sexuality, depression, abortion, loneliness, racism, doubt) was the most personal for you? Why?
- 3) Which of the Twelve are you most like? Why?
- 4) How do you handle your sincere faith questions? How do you know if you have crossed the line from doubt to skepticism?
- 5) Is Communion meaningful to you? Why or why not?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?