**Building Core Strength**

**Four Strong Responses to Our Lord’s Passover**

**John 11:48-50** - *If we allow him to go on in this way, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away our sanctuary and our nation. Then one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said, “You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is more to your advantage to have one man die for the people than for the whole nation to perish.”*

**I. Rest in Jesus, the One Who Is in Control (vv. 7-13)**

A. Seen in the desire to eat the Passover in the city despite the upcoming betrayal (vv. 7-9)

B. Seen in the detail of the arrangements (vv. 10-13)

**Romans 8:28-29** - *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren*

**II. Celebrate Jesus’ Personal Sacrifice (vv. 14-23)**

A. Because Jesus wanted to sacrifice himself (vv. 14-18)

B. Because Jesus gave up his body for us (v. 19)

**Romans 5:6-8** - *For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly for one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

C. Because Jesus offered his own blood to inaugurate the New Covenant (v. 20)

**Exodus 24:8** - *So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words.”*

**Hebrews 9:11-14** - *But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

D. Because Jesus was offering himself in the midst of betrayal (vv. 21-23)

**Psalm 55:12-14** - *For it is not an enemy who reproaches me, then I could bear it; nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me, then I could hide myself from him. But it is you, a man my equal, my companion and my familiar friend; we who had sweet fellowship together walked in the house of God in the throng.*

**III. Serve Wholeheartedly because that is how Greatness is defined (vv. 24-30)**

A. Greatness in the unbelieving world is defined by power and influence (vv. 24-25)

B. Greatness in God’s kingdom is following the service example of Jesus (vv. 26-30)

**IV. Live Dependently on Jesus (vv. 31-38)**

A. Peter’s failure was his belief that he could follow on his own (vv. 31-34)

**1 Peter 5:8** - *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

**Ephesians 6:11-12** - *Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

B. All the disciples fail to make the dependence connection