



APPOINTMENT



# APPOINTMENT IN SAMARRA

- Mesopotamian Folktale
- Retold by W. Somerset Maugham (1933)

- Here is a [link to a YouTube video](#) by “Hercule Poirot” (David Suchet). It is not as good as Floy’s reading, but it will give you the idea of the story.



# IMAGINE...

- How are we like the faithful servant?
- As Christians should we fear death?
- Why or Why not?

# HE SET HIS FACE...



“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, your king coming unto you; he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon a donkey, even upon a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zechariah 9:9).

*Christ's Entry into Jerusalem, Hippolyte Flandrin, 1842*

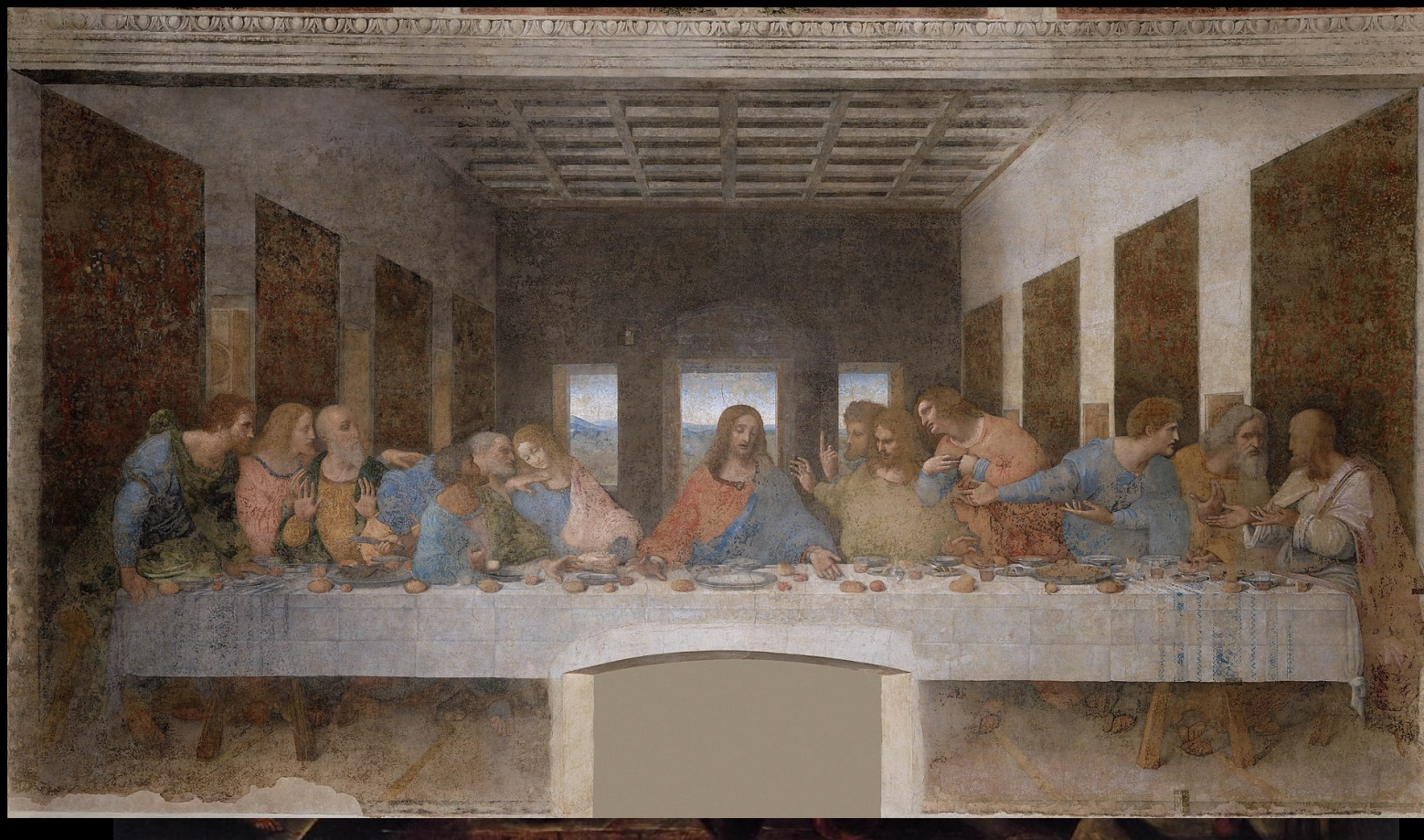
*1 Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.*

*2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him...*

*27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.*

*28 Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. John 13:1-2, 27-29 (KJV)*

## DEATH: BETRAYAL OR FULFILLMENT



*The Last Supper, Il Tintoretto, 1592-94.*



IMAGINE...

# HE SAID UNTO THEM...



*...The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day....*

*Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.*

Luke 9:22 and 9:44(KJV)

*The Taking of Christ, Caravaggio, 1602.*

36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; **take away this cup from me**: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour?

38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, **but the flesh is weak**.

39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words.

40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him.

41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: **it is enough**, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

42 Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.  
Mark 14: 36-42 (KJV)



Agony in the Garden, El Greco, 1590s



DO NOT GO  
GENTLE  
INTO THAT  
GOOD NIGHT.  
RAGE, RAGE  
AGAINST  
THE DYING  
OF THE  
LIGHT.  
DYLAN THOMAS

IMAGINE:  
WILL YOU  
RAGE OR GO  
GENTLE?

# A PRAYER FOR ALL TIMES

Our Father Who Art in Heaven...

Thank you this day to celebrate the goodness of your love that leads us each day. Let us be joyful for the grace which you give us unconditionally even as we ask you to take away our grief and pain that is part of living our lives for you. Help us to remember that your way is the holy way and that *your will* will lead us into pastures that are green and awash with sweetness.

Help us to have the courage to ask for your favor and to anticipate all the ways of your will as it will be done. Help us to accept that our vision is not as great as thine. Isaiah reminded us to remember that “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are *my [God’s] ways* higher than your ways and *my [God’s] thoughts* than your thoughts.”

And as we pray to thank you and to ask your help in our times of need, help us to remember that we must strive to be more like the Son. We must put aside our pride that we think we can do all and plan all.

We must remember that we need your grace to achieve our “daily bread”, your grace to forgive others and ourselves, and your guidance that we will not give into temptation which will lead us from your grace.

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen