

## Thursday Devotional

Margaret and I became familiar with the Kentucky Derby when we were seminary students in Louisville, Kentucky. The Derby comes around in May and is a big deal in the city. People all over town make a few extra buck by renting rooms, kind of a two day B&B. People who live near the track rent out parking spaces in their driveways. The town fills up on that weekend. And locals know not to drive anywhere near the part of town where the racetrack is located.

Such was the case each year in ancient Jerusalem for the Passover. Passover was also the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which lasted seven days. Of the three feasts each year that Jewish men were commanded to come to the temple, Passover was the most popular. Whole families would descend upon Jerusalem.

The locals then would make a few extra “bucks” by renting extra rooms, stables, or rooftops (most were flat for storage). If you had a home with a large second story, you would likely have made arrangements days if not weeks or months in advance to rent it out to someone for the Feast. Many people arranged each year for the next year for their whole family, much like families rent the same places for the same week each year in Ocean City.

And yet, there was a large room available at the last moment for Jesus and his disciples to observe the Passover together. That means at least 15 men, maybe more, and possibly half dozen or so women. That is a pretty big group, needing a pretty big room.

The one thing we know happened on Thursday of that first Easter week was that Jesus sent two of his disciples to prepare a certain room for the Passover for this large group. You can read about it at Luke 22:7-13. Now maybe Jesus had somehow, without his disciples’ knowledge, beforehand arranged to have the room available. But it does not read that way. Certainly meeting the guy with the water jar and following him to the exact house took supernatural knowledge on the part of Jesus.

So one of the Easter miracles in the Bible is this one. But let's look at someone, and something, we often overlook in this bit of history.

We don't know anything about the man carrying the water jar. We don't know who he was or why he was doing this job. And yet his little task played a part of what the almighty God was doing to bring us salvation.

We all do many such regular chores. We fix meals, wash clothes and dishes, clean our rooms, run errands, take messages, mow grass, etc. There are myriad chores to be done, over and over and over again. They may seem small in comparison to the threat we all face. But they are helping us all deal with an unusual situation by providing a sense of normalcy we all need.

Let us continue to make our lives as normal as possible under the restrictions of these abnormal days. Commit all your chores to the Lord. Make them each an act of devotion to him.

Lord, I believe you care about every part of my life. You care about all my responsibilities, commitments, and obligations. Give me grace to fulfill them for all those who depend upon me. In Jesus' name, amen.