

# **THE LAST COMMAND**

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The last command by M. L. Charlesworth

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**M. L. CHARLESWORTH**

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COMMAND**





# THE LAST COMMAND.

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Third Thousand.



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## PREFACE.

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THE need of plain and earnest teaching on the subject of the Holy Communion is a fact open to the observation of all. The writer of this little volume trusts that to the young, and in Cottage Homes and Mothers' Meetings, it may be found a help blessed of God.



THE  
LAST COMMAND.

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CHAPTER I.

THE LAST SUPPER.

It was a solemn evening which the Lord Jesus came to Jerusalem to celebrate, before He suffered. For one thousand five hundred years that evening had been the most solemn of all evenings. That evening was first observed in Egypt, by God's command. The people of Israel killed a lamb without blemish. They roasted and ate the lamb; and sprinkled the blood of the lamb on the lintel, and the two side-posts of their doors. On that night the Lord went forth and slew all the first-born in the land of Egypt; but when He saw the blood sprinkled as He had commanded, He passed over, and slew not any who had taken refuge within the blood.

That was a night to be much remembered. It was called the night of the Lord's passover;

Matt. xxvi.  
17-20.

Exod. xii.



because the Lord passed over the doors on which He saw the sprinkled blood, and slew not any who had that blood to plead for them. The people of Israel had kept that solemn feast to the Lord in all their generations, for one thousand five hundred years, as the Lord had commanded.

And now, to the city of Jerusalem, and to the whole world, the Lamb of God had come; the true Lamb, without blemish and without spot; holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners, He had come to offer up Himself. Behold, in Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

When Isaac went up the mountain, by his father Abraham's side, carrying the wood for the burnt-offering, he said to Abraham his father, 'My father, behold the fire and the wood! but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide Himself a lamb, for a burnt-offering.' God had provided Himself a Lamb, even His beloved Son, in whom He was well pleased! The prophet Isaiah, speaking of the Lord Jesus, seven hundred years before He came into the world, said of Him, 'He is led as a lamb to the slaughter.' The Apostle Peter tells us that we are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb, without blemish and without spot. Therefore did the Lord cele-

Heb. vii. 26,  
27.

John, i. 29.

Gen. xxii.

Matt. iii.  
17.

Isa. liii.

1 Pet. i. 18,  
19.

brate this solemn evening, which for so many ages had been kept sacred, setting forth His precious blood, by the shedding of which He obtained eternal redemption for all who come unto God by Him.

Heb. ix. 12.

It was on this evening, when alone with His disciples, the Lord spoke those wondrous words of love and mercy which are written in the 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th chapters of the Gospel according to St. John. When we remember that on that evening the Lord Jesus held the last discourse with His disciples before He suffered; when we remember that He was even then going to His agony and bloody sweat, to His cross and passion, to His death and burial, we may well wonder as we read them, that they tell us not of Death, but of Life. He speaks not a word of the cross, nor the grave where before the next evening came He must lie silent and cold in death; but He speaks of His Father's house, the many mansions there, the place He would prepare, and of His coming again to receive those who loved Him, to Himself. He speaks not of His own sorrow, even unto death; when He would look in vain for some to pity Him, and for comforters, but would find not any; He only tells of the Comforter whom the Father would send in His name, that those who loved Him might not be left comfortless. He commits His

Matt. xxvi.  
38.

Ps. lxi. 20,  
21.

Mark, xiv.  
50.

1 John, iv.  
10.

disciples to His Father's care ; speaks of His Will that they should be with Him in His glory. But, though He knew all things that should come upon Him, He speaks no word of the hours of darkness and death, when those, whom He so loved, would forsake and flee from Him. 'Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us ; and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.'

Matt. xxvi.  
26.

Luke, xxii.  
19, 20.

On this solemn evening, now made sacred to the world for ever, Jesus spoke all these words of love,—words that for nearly two thousand years have breathed the Peace of God into the hearts of the poor and the rich, the aged and the young, the learned and the unlearned. A multitude that no man can number have been led, by these words of love and mercy, from self to Christ, from sin to holiness, and from the world to heaven. At this last supper as they were eating, 'Jesus took bread, and blessed and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat ; this is My body. And He took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it ; for this is My blood of the New Testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins.' He also said, 'Do this in remembrance of Me ;' and of the cup He said, 'My blood which is shed for you.'

This was the Last Command of the Lord