

WHY DIDN'T THE DISCIPLES TRY TO STOP JUDAS?

The Last Supper in Its Original Cultural Context

DISCIPLE: Lord, who is it that will betray you?

JESUS: It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.

Triclinium

By New Testament times, many Jews had adopted this Roman style of dining. The accounts of the Last Supper suggest that Jesus and the disciples were following this custom in a modified form.

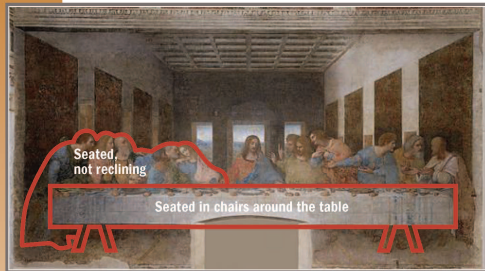
TRICLINIUM SETTING

- May have included a view of the garden for a scenic backdrop
- Oblong shaped room, with long couches along three of the walls; hence its name

TABLE & SEATING

- Low table in center of room
- Couches were arranged around the three sides of a square, with entertainment taking place in the open space

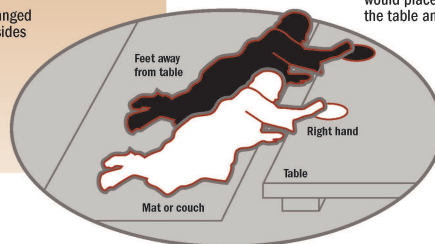
Visualizing the Last Supper without the Benefit of Cultural Context



"The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci

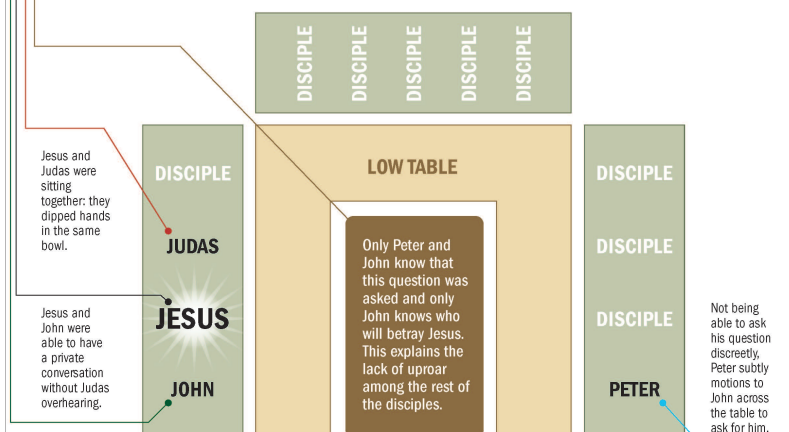
DINERS

- Diners reclined on their left side, freeing their right hand to take food
- Several diners fit per couch so each would place his or her head close to the table and angle their body away
- The bodies overlapped with the head situated next to the chest of the adjacent guest



John 13:21-29

After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me." 22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. 23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. 24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." 25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly." 28 But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. 29 Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor.



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