returned to Bethany with his disciples. One of their number stole away from his companions, and secretly sought an interview with the rulers, offering to sell his Lord into their hands. The bargain was struck, and during the next two days the traitor was watching for his opportunity. Perhaps his presence checked the Saviour's utterance, for no record remains of an act or word on the Wednesday of the passover-week. It may be that the Saviour spent that day and the morning of the next in communion with his Father, preparing for the solemn scenes before him. On Thursday two of the disciples, by command of the Lord, entered the city, and following the tokens given, entered a house whose owner placed at their service a large upper room. Here the lamb, obtained already slain at the temple, was prepared, the table was spread with the simple food of the passover-feast, and the couches were arranged around it. In the afternoon the Saviour walks with his disciples over the crest of Olivet, across the valley of Jehoshaphat, and up the steeps of Zion, to the supper-room. Little dreamed the disciples of the wondrous events destined to transpire before they should walk by his side again over those familiar hills. At the room an unseemly strife takes place among the disciples for the highest place at the table, which the Saviour rebukes by washing their feet, showing himself their example in lowly service. The couches are occupied, John reclining next to his Master. The Saviour beholds the face of Judas, and beneath it the heart black with treason. He utters his warning, which only one of the company understands, but which falls with a weight of surprise and alarm on every soul.

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

Verse 12. The first day of unleavened bread. The feast of unleavened bread began on the day when the passover lamb was killed, Thursday, the fourteenth of the month Nisan. For one week thereafter no leaven was allowed in the houses of the Jews, commemorative of the haste with which they went out of Egypt, not allowing time for the making of bread. Exod. 12. 34. **When they killed the passover.** The passover-lamb was slain on the afternoon of Thursday, and eaten in the evening, as after sunset was the beginning of Friday. There is a difference of opinion, however, whether Jesus and his disciples partook of the supper on the regular evening, or a day in advance of it. **Where wilt thou?** The three great feasts, Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, could be celebrated only in and near Jerusalem, and were powerful influences toward maintaining the unity of the people. **Eat the passover.** This feast commemorated the departure from Egypt, and also looked onward to the crucifixion of Christ, by the lamb slain, its blood sprinkled, (in Egypt on the houses, in Jerusalem on the altar,) and its flesh eaten.

13. Two of his disciples. They were Peter and John. Luke 22. 8. **There shall meet you.** This prediction, seemingly unimportant, is given to show that Jesus foresaw all the events which lay in his path of suffering, and met them voluntarily. **A man bearing a pitcher of water.** An unusual sight in the East, where water is usually drawn and carried by women.

14. Goodman. An old English word, meaning "the master of the house." **The Master saith.** This would indicate that the householder was a disciple of Jesus, or at least one who was friendly to his cause. **Where is the guest-chamber?** "My guest-chamber." [Revised Version.] 1. Christ regards the possessions of his followers as his own. The residents of Jerusalem opened their houses freely to the people of the land during the week of the Passover, receiving as their only compensation the skin of the lamb eaten by each family. **With my disciples.** The disciples with Jesus formed a family, partaking of their meals together. 2. All who belong to Jesus enjoy the privileges of his family.

15, 16. Upper room. The best and largest rooms in Oriental houses are upon the second floor. **Furnished.** With table and couches for the feast. 3. Our upper room is a heart open to receive Christ and at his service. **Found as he had said.** 4. The disciple always finds the words of his Master true and faithful. **They made ready.** They purchased the lamb already slain, at the temple, where its blood was poured out on the altar. It was trussed for roasting by being fixed upon two skewers which were arranged in the form of a cross, a fact suggestive to the Christian. It was roasted in an oven of earth, and brought upon the table with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

17, 18. In the evening. Probably about sunset. The lamb was killed in the afternoon and eaten after dark. **He cometh with the twelve.** From Bethany, where he had remained for two days. **As they sat.** By a comparison of the accounts in Luke 22. 24, and John 13. 1-12, we learn that there was a strife for the highest position at the table. Jesus gave them a rebuke to their ambitious desires by washing their feet, thus assuming toward them the part of a servant. **And did eat.** The Jews anciently ate the passover standing, as if in haste, but after the Roman supremacy they adopted the custom of taking their meals in a reclining position. At the passover not less than ten nor more than twenty partook of the meal together, each being required to eat a piece of the lamb at least as large as an olive. **One of you....shall betray me.** This announcement was made to show that none of the events now so near at hand were unknown to Jesus, and perhaps to give the traitor an opportunity of repentance. 5. Even to the last Jesus loves the souls of men, and would hold them back from sin if it were possible. Notice the Revised Version, "One of you shall betray me, even he that eateth with me."