

**Antleo: The Host With The Most  
Journey Through Lent, week five**  
By Scott Runyon  
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Luke 22:7-13

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

Can you help me with something? I have these two blankets here. Aren't they soft and beautiful? These are for Hainer and Lily when they are dedicated in April next month here during a worship service.

Do you know what it means to dedicate a baby? It means that a baby's parents love their baby so much that they are committed to raise the baby to know Jesus and to learn and grow to be a good Christian. That is a pretty important thing to do right?

Also, during a dedication, the whole congregation will commit themselves to help raising the baby. That means that they will help teach classes, and do whatever they can to support the parents to raise the baby too. That's a great thing to do isn't it?

So, here is how you can help. Everyone here is going to pray over these blankets to bless them this morning. Can you help by holding

them up while we pray? Great!  
Thank you!

## **SERMON**

Oh hi. My name is Antleo. Well, that's what Jesus calls me, anyway. We have this sort of secret language, signals and such, so that we can communicate without the Romans knowing what we're doing. Sometimes I will carry a jug of water as the signal when I am helping people out. It's a funny story how that started, but you probably don't want to hear about that, do you? You do? Oh, okay.

Well, I do all kinds of jobs around town for people who need extra help. Men usually do the same work as their father and I really wanted to be a shepherd like all my brothers, but it just wasn't for me. I couldn't keep the sheep together. They were always getting lost. It just wasn't working out. So, now I help people around town with whatever they need. I can fix ox carts. I can help plow fields. I can help plant crops. I can help harvest the grain and put it into the barns. I can't fish too well, but I can help cook the fish. I'll do whatever people need done. I love helping people.

One time, I was helping a family in town get ready for a wedding feast. The women had so much to do at the house, so I offered to fetch water from the well to help them out. Normally men don't carry water, but doing that doesn't bother me none. So, I went and got them lots of water from the well and they are happy, so, I am happy. When I was down by the well, I met Jesus. Do you know Jesus? I didn't expect to find a man there, because usually only women go to the well, but there was Jesus talking with a bunch of women! I kinda laughed to myself. Usually, people don't talk to me. I don't know why. Maybe they think that I'm doing work that men shouldn't be doing, or maybe they don't like how I talk. I don't know.

Well, Jesus wasn't like that. We started talking and Jesus treated me with more respect than any man ever did. That Jesus is really special — never met a man like him. I told him about the family I was helping with the wedding, and wouldn't you know it, Jesus started drawing out water and helping me! I couldn't believe it! We must have been a funny sight. Who would have thought they'd ever see two men at the well at the same time and both drawing out water? All the women were giggling at us.

So, I introduced Jesus to the women of the family who were getting ready for the wedding, and we all became friends that day. As we were carrying water, Jesus started calling me Antleo, which, if you know Greek, sounds a lot like the Greek word for water. And I like that name, because Jesus gave it to me. I think it says something about me most people don't see ... but Jesus sees. To me, it means that I will help anyone, even carry water for them. Jesus says that name means that I have a heart, like the heart of God. I don't know about that, but it feels good to hear it, especially from Jesus. When I am around him, I feel important. I feel good. I feel, well ... I guess I feel loved, and that's about the best thing a person can feel.

Most men around town either ignore me or insult me. I'm used to it, and my momma always told me not to pay any attention to them. But, you know, it can still hurt every once in a while. So, any chance I get I like to spend time with Jesus. He's the real deal — treats everyone right.

Jesus is pretty famous now. Everyone knows him or knows about him. He has been talking to people all over Judea these days, and I don't understand most of

what he talks about, but I know he talks a lot about love, and I think that's great. People need to hear more about love these days. There is too much bad talk.

I heard that the high priest and all those Jewish Pharisee leaders are pretty upset with Jesus because he doesn't do things the normal ways other Jewish leaders do. But maybe Jesus' way is better. I don't know, I'm a simple man, but I trust Jesus and that's what matters to me.

The last time Jesus came through Jerusalem, he came just to see me. He came with a cover over his face and nobody knew he was here. He wanted to talk with me about helping him, and of course I will do anything if Jesus asks me to do it. He wants me to help prepare a room for him and his 12 disciples to have the Passover meal during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. We worked it all out. There is a friend of mine who has an upper room that is perfect for this kind of celebration, because it is private. Nobody would be able to see them in there, and there is an entrance where Jesus and his disciples can enter off the main road where nobody could see them. They have to be careful because those Pharisees and chief priests are

after him. He talked about how important this meal is for him and his disciples. The Passover meal is one of the three big feast days when everyone comes into Jerusalem so it is important, but Jesus made it sound even more important than usual.

I know that it might be risky for me to help him out, because so many people are in town including lots of Romans, even Pontius Pilate, not to mention people from all over the world and lots of those chief priests and Pharisees — so we have to be careful not to give ourselves away. But we have the signal all set. On the day of preparation for the feast, I will be carrying a jug of water — me, Antleo, carrying water — that's Jesus' sense of humor for you. Nobody will miss a man carrying a jug of water. I'll be carrying the jug of water just inside the eastern gate and two of Jesus' disciples will meet me there (Peter and John) and they'll follow me to my friend's house that has the upper room. Later today, I'll get the room set up for the 13 of them with place to prepare the meal. I am good at getting things ready. It will be all set for them. Of course I'll help them with any preparation if they need my help, or maybe they will have me stand to watch the street

— anything Jesus and his friends need.

Lots of people wanted me to help them to get ready for Passover because it is so busy around Jerusalem, getting ready for the feast, but Jesus' work is more important. I told them all that I already had some very important work. I won't get paid for it, but that doesn't matter. I know that I am doing God's work.

I didn't realize that meeting Jesus would change my life, but it did. I feel good about who I am and important, and nobody can say anything now to change that.

Well, I have to be getting back so that I can get everything in the upper room set. I hope that I'll see you during the feast, but if I don't, I'll probably be hanging out with Jesus.

That's my story about how wonderful it is to know Jesus and to do his work. If you know Jesus, maybe you can tell your story. I bet people would like to hear it.