

**The Lord's Supper  
Matt 26:17-30**

17 Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" 18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.'"" 19 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. 20 When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve.

1. **Passover – the meal that was celebrated each year to commemorate a special time in the history of Israel**
  - a. **The descendants of Abraham, the family of Joseph, had moved to Egypt to escape a terrible famine. Joseph, who had been made Prime Minister of Egypt, took them in and gave them land to live in.**
  - b. **But over the course of the next four hundred years, the Egyptians forgot all about Joseph and their relationship with the descendants of Abraham, and they began to see them as a labor pool.**
  - c. **By the time of Moses when the Israelites were no more than slave labor, and the Egyptians had even began killing the firstborn sons of the Israelites so they wouldn't get any more numerous.**
  - d. **God sent Moses, born of an Israelite, raised by Pharaoh, to lead the Israelites to freedom.**
  - e. **You all know the story: God sent plagues against the Egyptians to cause Pharaoh to release Israel, but he wouldn't budge, and finally came the last plague where God sent an angel of death over the land to kill the firstborn in all of Egypt.**
  - f. **And to protect the Israelites from this curse, God instructed them in Exodus 12 to institute the Passover – “The Lord's Passover”, and by taking the blood of the sacrificed Passover lamb, and applying it to the door of their home, the angel of death would “pass over” that house, thus saving the occupants inside.**
2. **After that, Israel was instructed to commemorate that event every year, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Nisan (March/April), as an *everlasting ordinance*.**
  - a. **As Christians, we know that the Passover was a symbol, a promise of a future time when Jesus Christ would come and be sacrificed, and in like manner we would be saved by His shed blood.**

**1 Cor 5:7**

*For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*

3. As a Jewish man, Jesus would have participated in this event every year, the disciples would have shared it with Him for the several years they were together - **except this year would be different.**

***The first hint that something was different...***

21 Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." 22 And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?" 23 He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. 24 The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." 25 Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it."

4. As they are eating the Passover Seder, Jesus does something unexpected, He tells the group that one of them would betray Him, and this made them ***exceedingly sorrowful.***
  - a. And they started asking "is it me???" Of course one of them knew who it was, because he had already done it!
5. Last week we talked about the reason that Judas betrayed the Lord: His heart was in the world!
  - a. As Judas looked out at the political, social, and religious conflict that was going on around him; logically all indications were that Jesus was LOSING the battle, and that the religious leaders were WINNING.
  - b. So it would have been a logical choice to throw in with the religious leaders, and sell out Jesus.
6. But as we noted last week – Judas did not see the spiritual reality of what was going on.
  - a. He was looking at the battle from a worldly perspective – it's a very easy thing to do, when the majority is against you, when the other side seems to have all the money and the power.
  - b. Sadly many Christians make terrible decisions because they look at the natural realm. We see the whole world going against God, and we think we might as well throw in our lot with the world!
  - c. Christians, this is a lesson to us, that **we should never make decisions in this life based on who is winning in the natural realm!**
7. In 2 Kings 6 the Syrian army came to Dothan to capture the prophet Elisha, and as his assistant looked out at the army surrounding the city he wailed "what shall we do? And Elisha answered:

***2 Kings 6:16-17***

*"Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, and said, "LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see." Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

- a. **If we look with our eyes, we may only see the Syrian army...**
- b. **But faith is seeing the truth of Him who has already won in the spiritual realm!**

***The second hint that something was different...***

26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins

- 8. **But what is important here is the reality that communion represents: That Jesus death on the cross allows us to have a new covenant relationship with God.**

**Communion, or Eucharist**

- 9. The "formal" name for communion is the "eucharist" -- which means "to give thanks". (verse 27) This describes the first aspect of the Lord's supper: *We are "giving thanks" to God for sending His Son to pay the price for our sins.*
- 10. It is also called "communion", which is our English translation of the NT Greek word, *koinonia*, which means, "fellowship, association, community."
  - a. The NT writers used this word *koinonia* to describe the sharing, intimate, fellowship which believers have with Christ and one another.

**Who Can Take Communion?**

- 11. First, communion is for disciples of Jesus Christ. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your savior, then communion is for you!
  - a. If not, then it is just bread and grape juice! But if you are not a disciple, what better time than now to ask the Lord Jesus Christ to come into your heart, then you can enjoy the blessing of communion with Him!
- 12. Some Christians are afraid to take communion, thinking that they are not good enough. Well, it is true they are not good enough because *nobody* is good enough.
  - a. The fact is that if we were good enough we wouldn't need to take communion. Being "not good enough" perfectly qualifies us,

because it is not a matter of goodness but of need. Everyone needs Jesus.

- b. You don't have to take a class or give a donation. The act of taking Jesus into your body is a declaration of faith in the Son of God. Jesus never restricted anyone who would come to Him.

### **The Elements**

13. The "elements", or ingredients used in communion, are simple: bread and wine. But Jesus gave them new meaning.

- a. He gave bread His disciples, and then declared, "Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.

### **The Bread**

14. The Bread of Passover was the "bread of affliction".

- a. It carried a message of deliverance to the ancient Israelite, *"let everyone who is hungry, tired, enslaved, let him come and eat of this bread of affliction"*
- b. The bread was made without leaven, it was striped, and it was pierced... in the same manner as Jesus body.
- c. But at this Passover Jesus didn't give the normal explanation of the bread, that of symbolizing Israel's affliction as slaves in Egypt
- d. Rather he connected the bread to *Himself*, as He would be afflicted on our behalf.

#### ***John 6:48-51***

*I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."*

After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in My blood"

### **The Wine**

15. There are four cups taken in Passover:

- a. Cup 1 "I will bring you out" [deliverance]
- b. Cup 2 "I will rid you of their bondage" [freedom]
- c. Cup 3 "I will redeem you" [redemption]
- d. Cup 4 "I will take you for my people and I will be your God" [consummation]
- e. The cup that Jesus lifted was the third cup..when Jesus lifted the third cup, instead of speaking of a future Messiah that would redeem Israel, Jesus instead said: *For this is My blood of the new covenant*

**Jer 31:31-34**

*"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah -- not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

**f. The blood is the price that Jesus paid for our sin, that we might be forgiven, and enter into God's new covenant with man.**

**16. So today when we partake of communion, we connect past events with the present. We look back at the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross, and we look forward to the day that we will see Him again!**

**17. One last thing...**

But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

- a. Jesus did not take the fourth cup, the cup of consummation, that says "I will take you for my people and I will be your God "**
- b. Jesus is referring to a time in the future when He WILL take the fourth cup, in Heaven!**
- c. One of the first things that we will do in heaven is to sit down to the greatest banquet that has ever been held: The Marriage Supper of the Lamb**

**Rev 19:6-8**

*And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.*

30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

**18. Lets sing – Jesus Paid it all**

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**Matthew 26:17-30**

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