



THE LAST SUPPER

THE NEW COVENANT & FINAL PASSOVER

Mark 14:12-16

THE NEW PASSOVER - Planning

Jesus Celebrates the Last Passover and The Lord's Supper is Instituted

- They prepared to eat the Passover during the Feast of Unleavened Bread at the specific time, in the “evening” as the OT said Passover must be, in God’s chosen city Jerusalem rather than in Bethany.
- Instead of telling the disciples where they would have dinner in response to the disciples’ direct question in v12, He sends the disciples (Peter & John – Luke 22:8) out with **minutely detailed instructions** which are all fulfilled, suggesting there is a **secrecy** of the sign of a man carrying water in a jar, since only women usually did this, suggesting Jesus’ life was in danger.
- This is **probably so Judas could not betray Him until after the dinner**. The other disciples didn’t know where the dinner was until they got there, so Judas couldn’t leave to tell the authorities until after the dinner. Jesus must celebrate the Passover to fulfill all righteousness, so He must not be arrested until after the dinner. (also, only two were allowed to take the lamb to the temple to be slaughtered).
- Tradition says that this was **John Mark’s house**. Some think this was the upper room after the resurrection.

PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION (the “Lord’s Supper”) – “Surely not I?”

- the disciples had a sense of wholesome distrust in their own hearts when confronted with the convicting question by Jesus.
 - **1 Corinth. 11:27-28** – “Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man **examine himself**, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”
- **We should not take communion without heeding the following two warnings:**
 - Don’t take communion unless you are a **follower of Christ**. It is too precious a thing to treat as a meaningless religious ritual; and
 - Be sure you’re up to date with God regarding any **unconfessed sins or un-surrendered areas in your life**. In other words, perform a “heart check” on yourself. It is important to note here that being “up to date” does not imply perfection. Paul wrote in **1 Corinthians 11:31–32** that we are **to judge ourselves** appropriately and allow the Lord to discipline and sanctify us. We should have the psalmist’s attitude when he **prayed, “Forgive my hidden faults” (Psalm 19:12)**.
- We have made too little of the Lord’s Supper – John 6, **1 Corinth 10:16** – it’s a symbol, but it’s extremely important. Calvin/Luther said Jesus’ presence is in, with and through it, but it is not the actual body of Christ.
- **Jesus tells us we must be baptised and take communion, so it’s important.**
- Wine is the symbol of the blood of the covenant – this is the 3rd cup of blessing (of the 4 cups of wine at Passover) in the Jewish Passover (deals with redemption). The last cup will not be drank until we are with Jesus in the kingdom. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfB23DmeWWw> – 4 Min Video – Got Questions

Mark 14:12-26

THE NEW PASSOVER

Jesus explains that His death, the true Passover, achieves a **New Covenant of forgiveness for all the world.**

- This is the last Passover and also the inauguration of the First Communion.
- We need to understand that Jesus is using OT meaning of the Passover feast when He explains the meaning.

This is that Passover commemorated rescue from

1. the **WRATH OF GOD** by the pouring out of blood (**Ex. 12:23**), and
2. from **SLAVERY IN EGYPT** (**Deut. 16:1**).

It was **followed by a covenant, ratified by blood** (**Ex. 24:3-8**).

Mark 14:12-26

THE NEW PASSOVER

Jesus explains that His death, the true Passover, achieves a **New Covenant of forgiveness for all the world.**

- Blood ratifies a covenant of a sacrificial victim, that was sacrificed for the purposes of atonement (reconciliation of man with God; to make amends; by forgiveness of sin).
- **Jesus' blood not only ratified the New Covenant which the prophets foresaw (Jer. 31:31-34), but also satisfied the Old Covenant.**
- **To keep the promises to Abraham and David, to make a covenant of forgiveness possible, Jesus took the death penalty pronounced at Sinai (the law – 10 commandments) for man's sin.**
- The result is the even greater rescue which Passover and Sinai promised (**Lev. 26:40-45; Zech. 9:11**).

Mark 14:12-26

THE NEW COVENANT

- The picture of eating and drinking bread and wine, like eating the Passover lamb, **symbolizes sharing in the sacrificial death**. The fact that it uses no actual flesh and blood since there is no longer a need to kill lambs to ratify the covenant, means we now look back to the blood of the Cross to **remember** the sacrifice and the **covenant Jesus has made to save us from our former covenant breaking**.
- Jesus' vow to abstain from wine until He was in the Kingdom (Num. 6 – an act of dedication), showed that the crisis was over. But Jesus accepts wine at His death (15:36) when He also drinks the “cup” of God’s wrath (14:36).
- Mark says nothing about repeating these symbols regularly in the Lord’s Supper (like it does in 1 Cor. 10:16-17). What really matters is not whether we take the symbols but whether we take up the Cross they represent.
- Mark leaves open the possibility that Judas also shared in the bread and wine.

Mark 14:12-26

THE NEW PASSOVER

Meaning & Timing of The Last Supper

- The bread and cup Jesus is explaining is the Cross, and He is offering them to share the salvation it will bring. It is an offer of underserved forgiveness and grace.
- Note: there were 2 different Passover times:
 - Galileans celebrated it on **Thursday** evening
 - Judeans celebrated it on **Friday** evening
- So Jesus could celebrate the Passover with His Galilean friends and still die on Passover Friday when the people of Jerusalem celebrated it. It was perfect.

Mark 14:12-26

THE NEW PASSOVER

Ceremonial Procedures of Passover

- **Final Passover** – a monumental transition – the old is gone and the new has come - This HAS to HAPPEN – Jesus must make this transition and bring the end of an entire system and create a new one.
 - A prolonged meal – took many hours, and a sequence of events as follows:
 - Josephus the historian wrote that no less than 10 and no more than 20 would eat one lamb at Passover and according to Exodus 26, they had to eat the entire lamb.
 - Began with a pray of thanks, followed by a first cup of red wine diluted with water.
 - There was then a ceremonial cleaning of hands to symbolize cleansing and holiness
 - Luke 22:24 – a dispute arose regarding which of them was the greatest – this may be near the beginning of the evening when they were confronting holiness. Jesus showed them the meaning of humility and that the greatest become the least and the servant as He washed the disciple's feet saying to them "I have given you an example to do what I have done for you".
 - The washing was followed by an eating of bread and bitter herbs.
 - They would then sing songs of **Psalms of 113-118, 136 (Hallel)** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cyqm6tYyQoU>
 - Then would come the second cup of wine and then the main course of lamb.
 - Then the 3rd cup of wine and more singing of Psalms.
 - Then a final sip of wine and one last song. (Psalm 136)

Mark 14:21-24

Other Scripture on The “Lord’s Supper”

- **John 13:18** – more info is given. Psalm 41:9 “He who eats my bread has lifted up his heel against Me.”. John asks Jesus who it is?
- As much as Judas betrayed Jesus, it was exactly God’s plan, “as it is written of Him” v.21. Jesus was not killed by anyone other than by God as it was prophesied in many places. God used Judas and everyone who works against God to fulfil His plan still.
 - Psalm 22 – crucifixion, Isaiah 53 – meanings of crucifixion , Zech. 12:10 – being pierced
 - Psalm 16 – resurrection, 1 Cor. 15:3 – Christ died and rose “according to the scriptures”
- Mark 14:21 - The strongest statement in scripture on human responsibility - if you know the most you will be held the most accountable. **“It would have been good for that man if he had never been born.”**
- Mark 14:22-23 – Jesus took bread, blessed it and gave it to them and said **“Take, eat, this is my body.”** Then He took the cup – the **third cup of Passover is called the cup of blessing.**
- Mark 14:24 **“This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.”** - **promises forgiveness, deliverance of sin, salvation, reconciliation required a sacrifice of an innocent substitute.** Christ is the innocent substitute that satisfied the justice of God taking our sins in His own body and bearing the full the wrath of God for us. Validates and ratifies the new covenant.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsVFmY4q7p4> – 4 Cups of Passover

New Covenant – Last Supper Summary

- **New Covenant** – Ezek. 36:26-27, Jer. 31.:31,33 – new heart, new spirit, salvation, forgiveness of sins. **Consisted not of promise but of fulfillment.** **All we need to is remember the Cross.**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ferLlsvlml> – 5 Min
- The Old Covenant that God had established with His people required strict obedience to the Mosaic Law. Because the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), the Law required that Israel perform daily sacrifices in order to atone for sin.
- Jesus Christ came to fulfill the Law of Moses (Matthew 5:17) and to establish the New Covenant between God and His people.
- It's a reminder of the deliverance from sin through the body and blood of Christ who was killed for us. **“Do this in remembrance of me.”** Luke 22:19
- V. 25 – He won't drink wine again until its new in the kingdom of God – Second coming
- **Psalm 136** would have been the final Passover hymn.

Last Supper – Parts Unique to John’s Gospel

- John 13-17 covers the Last Supper
- John omits the account of the institution of the [Eucharist](#) or Communion, in which Jesus takes bread, breaks it and gives it to the Apostles, saying "**This is my body given to you**", but includes the following extensive teachings:
 1. Jesus [washes the feet of the Apostles](#)
 2. **John 14:1-31** - Jesus tells the disciples that he will be going away to the **Father**, that he will send the **Holy Spirit** to guide the disciples. , (John 14:6 "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.")
 3. **John 15:1-17** - Parable of [The Vine](#) which positions Jesus as the vine (the source of life for the world) and the disciples as the branches, building on the pattern of discipleship in the gospels
 4. **John 15:18-16:33** - This section again deals with Jesus' departure and the Comforter which will come to the disciples; and contrasts Jesus' love with the world's hatred.
 5. **John 17** – longest prayer by Jesus – known as the “High Priestly Prayer”

Mark 14:27-31

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

- This prophetic passage comes between the “Watch” of Chap. 13:37 and Chap. 14:32-42.
- There are times when each of us are ashamed of Jesus (**Mark 8:38**). We will also be ashamed of Jesus and His words unless we both **understand the Cross** and, “**watching**”, **pray for God's help**. We will do neither of these things unless we admit our own weakness that we are prayer-less, sleepy and self-reliant failures.
- Psalm 136 – “His mercy (lovingkindness) endures forever” – the last hymn at end of Passover
- This is an example of human weakness by believers. The disciples had incredible knowledge and salvation of Jesus, yet Jesus predicts they will all fall away! How much weaker will we be?
- Rather than singling out the betrayer, Jesus likens him to the others saying “**All of you will be made to stumble**” (v.27). Persecution will show that the Word has not yet taken root and even the disciples will reject Him.
- Mark 14:27 - There is an inescapability about it, as in **Zech. 13:7** “**I (God) will strike down the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.**”
- It was not Judas, Herod or Scribes that led Jesus to the Cross, **it was God**. Zech. said that God, with His own sword would strike down the Shepherd. “**I will turn my hand against the little ones.**” God is going to allow His own to be persecuted for the sake of the early church and the gospel. God predicted everything that would happen by the prophets. It's not only Jesus who will be stricken, but those who believe in Him as well.

Mark 14:27-31

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

- Scattering of the sheep is not just the Apostles, but the whole nation. But the emphasis of this “scattering” in this context is to the Apostles. After this the Twelve scattered until the resurrection.
- Interestingly, God struck the firstborn at the Exodus and the sheep of Israel were scattered.
- When you see the fear and coward-ness of the disciples (the best of men), you see the magnificent courage of Jesus.
- Paul rises above this when He says in Romans 1:16 **“I am not ashamed of gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto Salvation”**
- Peter later says in 1 Peter 4:16 **“Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter”**
- Another contrast is **Jesus' HUMILITY** against the disciple's pride. **Peter** boldly declared **“Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not.”** Then even after Jesus tells him he will deny Jesus before the rooster crows twice, Peter goes even further and states more vehemently, **“If I have to die with You, I will not deny You.” PRIDE**

Mark 14:27-31

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

- **Luke 22:31** adds – “**Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail...**”. Translated, “You” is a plural, meaning all of them.
- When the rooster crowed, **Peter wept bitterly (Luke 22:62)**– God humbled the proud Peter and convicted him of his sin.
- The disciple's failure was not permanent – they were restored after the resurrection and in **Acts 5:41** were ready to suffer, unashamed for Christ. What made the difference? The coming of the Holy Spirit!
- The history of martyrdom starts with the Apostles.
- What about Islam – if their life is threatened, they can lie to protect their life and advance the cause of Islam. Christians must tell the truth, even to death.
- If we have a fear and distrust of our own resolve to do this, this is not bad, but remember the words of **John 15:18 – 16:4**