

Theme: On the night He was betrayed, Jesus celebrated the last Passover with His disciples, for in His sacrificial death He fulfilled Passover by delivering and redeeming His people.

I. The Key Moment: Passover

- A. Mark rarely gives time indicators in the Gospel
- B. It doesn't tell us Jesus' ministry lasted over 3 years!
- C. But for the final days, he relates everything to Passover
Now **the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away...** ¹² **On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb,** Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat **the Passover?**" Mk 14:1, 12
- D. To understand these events we must relate them to Passover!

II. Preparing for Passover

- A. The disciples want to prepare for Passover
On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "**Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?**" Mark 14:12
 - 1. Passover had to be eaten in Jerusalem itself (Deuteronomy 16:5-8)
 - 2. A room had to be found, a lamb slaughtered, and the room set for people to celebrate Passover together.
 - 3. Jesus would be eating with the Twelve, the women who had come down from Galilee, and possibly others - a sizable crowd requiring a sizable room.

- 4. On 14 Nisan, work ceased at noon, Passover lambs were slaughtered around 3 PM, and the meal would begin after sunset.
- 5. There are enemies in Jerusalem - what should we do?

B. Jesus is prepared for Passover!

So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵ He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." ¹⁶ The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. Mark 14:13-16

- 1. Jesus sends two disciples (Peter and John - Luke 22:8) to prepare everything.
- 2. Clear signs to guide the disciples
 - a. A man with a water jar - only women carried jars
 - b. He will take you to a house - the owner will show you a large upper room that is furnished and ready.
 - c. This might be the home of Mark's parents - the same terms are used for the upper room in Acts and it was the home of Mark's parents, and later tradition says it was the home of Mark's family.
 - d. Some even wonder if Mark was the young man carrying the water jar - but we do not know.
 - e. Jesus may well have set this all up in advance.
 - f. They find everything just as Jesus said!
- 3. This is strikingly similar to Mark 11:1-6 where Jesus gives instructions to find a donkey to ride into Jerusalem. These events begin and end Jesus' time in Jerusalem leading to His arrest and death.

4. Both of these events show that Jesus is in complete control of the situation - even as evil plots are hatched against Him that will lead to His death.
5. This should encourage us as His disciples! No matter what events may swirl around us, Jesus is always at work, in control, preparing the way for us!

III. The Last Passover

A. Understanding a Passover meal

1. Passover was first celebrated on the night God delivered Israel from Egypt (Exodus 12)
2. The basic elements are given in Exodus 12, but over time a set of traditions developed for how one should celebrate Passover (see Mishna, X)
3. The Passover was built around four cups of wine, each of which was related to God's promise in Exodus 6:6-7

Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. Exodus 6:6-7

- a. The cup of sanctification - I will bring you out
- b. The cup of deliverance - I will free you from slavery
- c. The cup of redemption - I will redeem you
- d. The cup of acceptance - I will take you as my people (which looked forward to the Messianic age)

4. The key parts of Passover

- a. It began in the evening (later than a normal meal)
 - b. Psalm 113-118 would be recited at various times
 - c. The host pronounced a blessing to begin the feast, and the first cup (sanctification) was drunk by all the guests.
 - d. Food was then brought in - unleavened bread, bitter herbs, greens, stewed fruit, and roast lamb.
 - e. Someone (usually a child) asked why this night was so special and the host answered by quoting from Deuteronomy 25:6-9 (the deliverance from Egypt).
 - f. Psalm 113-114 were sung and the second cup (deliverance) was drunk by all the guests.
 - g. The host then took bread and pronounced a blessing - "Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has brought forth bread from the earth."
 - h. The bread was distributed for everyone to use to dip and eat the bitter herbs and stewed fruit.
 - i. The full meal, including the Passover lamb, was eaten. This lasted quite a while but had to be over before midnight.
 - j. After the meal, a last bit of bread is eaten, and the host blessed the third cup of wine which everyone then drank. (This is why this cup is sometimes called the cup of blessing - a blessing was spoken over it.)
 - k. The group then sang Psalms 115-118 and drank the fourth cup of wine thus concluding Passover.
5. Mark does not highlight all the parts of the meal, but we can see several in this passage that are key for us to understand.

B. The last Passover

1. Jesus announces His impending betrayal

While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me — one who is eating with me." ¹⁹ They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?" ²⁰ "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." Mk 14:18-21

- a. This was probably as they dipped bread to eat the bitter herbs at the beginning of the meal.
- b. In the most intimate table fellowship one will betray their friend (Psalm 41:9)! In the meal to remember God's deliverance, someone is betraying God's Son!
- c. What a shocking announcement!
- d. "Surely not I?" - expects a negative answer
- e. It is one of the Twelve - one of the closest companions (Psalm 41:9 allusion again)
- f. This again shows Jesus' knowledge and control - none of this is catching him by surprise!
- g. As the Passover lamb was sacrificed so the people might live, Jesus will be sacrificed so His people might live.

2. Jesus gives the bread at the end of the meal

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Mark 14:22

- a. This was probably as they ate the bread at the end of the meal, just before the 3rd cup of wine.

- b. Jesus radically reinterprets the bread - He is the Bread given for His people!
- c. As the bread was broken, so Jesus will be broken.
- d. As the bread was given, so Jesus will be given for His disciples.
- e. As the bread nourishes and sustains, so Jesus nourishes and sustains His disciples.
- f. In short, Jesus is our life!

3. Jesus gives the cup

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. Mark 14:23-24

- a. This was the 3rd cup of wine - the cup of redemption
- b. This is the promise God gave to redeem His people.
- c. The disciples would have been thinking about God's great redemption in the Exodus - and then Jesus radically reinterprets it for them!
- d. Jesus says that the blood of redemption is not that of the Passover Lamb but His own blood!
- e. He will be betrayed and slaughtered - but His death will not be in vain, for it will redeem His people!
- f. As the Passover Lamb, Jesus will not just redeem His people from slavery to humans but from sin, Satan, and death!
- g. The original Passover was ultimately but a type and shadow, for the true blood of redemption given for the people of God is the blood of Jesus!
- h. In short, Jesus is our redemption!

4. Jesus and the fourth cup

“I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.”²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Mk 14:25-26

 - a. What about the fourth cup? Jesus did not drink it!
 - b. This was the cup that looked forward to the Messianic age and the new heavens and earth.
 - c. Jesus forgoes this cup until the time of the consummation, when He returns and we sit and eat with Him in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb!
 - d. This is why Paul says we celebrate the Lord’s Table “until He comes” - then we will all drink the fourth cup together!
 - e. This is why they then sing the hymn - Psalm 115-118 - to finish Passover and go to the Garden of Gethsemane. The last Passover is complete for it is about to be fulfilled forever.

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I see that Christ fulfilled Passover for me?

Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 1 Corinthians 5:7

 1. Paul tells us Christ is our Passover Lamb!
 2. I will talk more about this idea in After Hours
 3. But as we have seen Christ fulfilled all of Passover for us - not just the Lamb, but the bread and cups of wine as well!
 4. Jesus was broken for us and He is our life! His blood was shed and He is our sanctification, deliverance, and redemption!

5. He fulfilled Passover so that we might inherit all of God’s promised blessings!
6. But as in the original Passover, the blood must be applied to deliver us from death!
7. Have I responded to Christ and had His blood applied to my heart?
8. This is not about my works or worthiness - for those receiving the meal with Jesus would all betray and desert Him! yet He received them as His own!
9. Look to Christ and receive all He has done for you!

B. Our Communion Table

1. This Table forms us past, present, and future!
 - a. We are shaped as we look back to Christ’s sacrifice for us and experience the blessings He gives
 - b. We are strengthened as we feast upon Christ by the Spirit now
 - c. We are sustained as we look forward to the day we drink the Cup with Christ in eternity!
2. Come and receive from Christ now! (Rev 5:12-13)

The Last Passover

Mark 14:12-26
 January 19, 2025
 Communion

1 Corinthians 5:7/ Exodus 6:6-7 paraphrase
 Teaching keywords: Atonement; redemption; Old Covenant; salvation and deliverance; Lord’s Supper

Brother and sisters, Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed. Therefore you have been sanctified, delivered, redeemed, and accepted! You are blessed - so go be a blessing! 1 Corinthians 5:7/ Exodus 6:6-7 paraphrase

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¹⁷ When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve.

¹⁸ While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me — one who is eating with me." ¹⁹ They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely not I?" ²⁰ "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." ²³ Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. ²⁵ "I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God." ²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Mark 14:12-26