

Theme: On the night He was betrayed, Jesus announced the beginning of the New Covenant as He celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples.

I. Intro - The Last Supper

- A. Da Vinci's famous painting of this critical moment
- B. Amazing but some clear errors (reclining, others there)
- C. Why is this moment so critical? What is happening?

II. The Last Supper of the Old Covenant

- A. This was the last Passover (last week)

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**?"...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?'...

¹⁶ The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the **Passover**. Mark 14:12, 14, 16

- 1. Mark mentions the passover 4 times in these verses
- 2. As we saw last week the meal followed the traditional Passover rite
- 3. But Jesus radically changes the meal too!

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**." Mark 14:22-25

- a. Jesus reinterprets the bread and the cup!
 - b. Jesus declares He is not only the host of the Passover - He is the Feast!
 - c. He does not drink the 4th cup, and will not drink wine again until the Kingdom is consummated!
- 4. By these actions Jesus is declaring that He is the fulfillment of Passover, and it will never be the same!
 - 5. Paul teaches the same thing
Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast — as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth. ¹ Corinthians 5:7-8
 - a. Christ is the True Passover Lamb and He has been sacrificed, thus fulfilling Passover forever!
 - b. This means that even the feast of Unleavened Bread is fulfilled and has a new meaning - it is no longer about physical leaven in bread, but rather about purging sin from our lives!

- B. This meal was also the end of the Old Covenant era
"This is my **blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many," he said to them. Mark 14:24
 - 1. As we saw Jesus radically reinterpreted Passover because its fulfillment was at hand.
 - 2. But it is not only the fulfillment of Passover that is at hand but rather the entire Old Covenant sacrificial system.
 - 3. The blood of the covenant is an allusion to Exodus 24:8 when the Old Covenant was ratified by blood

Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, “**This is the blood of the covenant** that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.” Exodus 24:8

- a. The old covenant was ratified and sealed by the blood of sacrificial animals.
 - b. Covenants were ratified by blood to seal the promises between the people in the covenant.
 - c. The blood of the covenant was sprinkled on the people, to bind them into the old covenant as the people of God.
4. Jesus proclaims that His blood is the true Blood of the Covenant, to which the Old Covenant blood was merely a pointer and sign.
5. Jesus also said His blood of the covenant was poured out for many - an allusion to Isaiah 53
Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he **poured out** his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of **many**, and made intercession for the transgressors. Isaiah 53:12
- a. The Servant of Yahweh would POUR out His Blood in death.
 - b. The Servant would do this to bear the sin of MANY - the people of God.
 - c. Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled that very night and the next day as Jesus poured out His life blood in death so that the sins of many might be forgiven!

III. The Beginning of the Glorious New Covenant

A. The Last Supper is the initiation of the New Covenant

This is **my blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. Mark 14:24

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is **the new covenant in my blood**, which is poured out for you. Luke 22:20

1. As the Old Covenant was sealed with the blood of sacrificial animals, so the New Covenant is sealed, but with the blood of Jesus, the True Lamb of God!
2. Luke specifies that it is the New Covenant that Jesus is speaking of and initiating here.
3. This is why this moment is so critical - it is when the Old Covenant is fulfilled and the New Covenant is ushered in as the Covenant for all of God’s people.

B. The glorious New Covenant

1. The New Covenant is superior to the Old Covenant
But the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as **the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one**, and it is founded on better promises. Hebrews 8:6
 - a. The Old Covenant was glorious, but the New Covenant is superior in every way!
 - b. The New Covenant has better promises, provisions, and ministry - and it is ratified by a far superior Mediator - Jesus, the sinless, eternal Son of God!
2. The New Covenant is the reality to which the Old Covenant only pointed
The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, ² and **who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man...** ⁵ They serve at a **sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven.** Hebrews 8:1-2, 5

- a. The Old Covenant Temple and priesthood were merely and earthly shadow of the True, Heavenly Temple and Priest (Jesus)!
- b. We do not go to an earthly Temple, but rather in worship we are taken by the Spirit into the True Heavenly Temple to be received and purified by our Great High Priest Jesus!

3. In the New Covenant our sins are truly removed forever

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.
Hebrews 10:11-12

- a. The Old Covenant sacrifices never removed sin, but only externally covered it for a period of time, but Jesus' Blood of the New Covenant removes our sin, cleansing us from the inside out forever!
- b. Jesus' Blood is so powerful that He has sat down - He never needs to make the sacrifice again!
- c. This point is highlighted by another "sandwich" by Mark in this text.
 - 1. Jesus announces His betrayal (14:17-21)
 - 2. The constitution of the Lord's Supper (14:22-26)
 - 3. All will fall away (14:27-31)
- d. Betrayal and failure of the disciples is the context of the Supper - there must be forgiveness of sin!

4. In the New Covenant God's Law is written on our hearts and minds to help us desire to obey God
This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. **I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts.** I will be their God, and they will be my people.
Hebrews 8:10

- a. In the Old Covenant God's Law was outside of the believer, written on Tablets of stone, but in the New Covenant the Law of God is inside the believer, for God inscribes the Law onto our hearts and minds.
- b. The Law is no longer an external condemning voice, but is now an internal prompting to obey the will of God - for His glory and our good!

5. In the New Covenant the Spirit of God dwells in every believer to empower us to serve & obey God!
And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.
Ezekiel 36:27

- a. In the Old Covenant God's Spirit rested upon a few key people, but in the New Covenant the Spirit of God dwells inside every believer to intercede for and through them, to empower them, to give them gifts, and to form them into the image of Christ!
- b. What a privilege we have - the Spirit dwells in us so that we are the Temple of God!
- c. As we learn to walk in, with, and by the Holy Spirit, keeping in step with Him, He works through us to serve, bless, and draw others to Jesus!

IV. Applying the Word

A. Enjoying and living in our New Covenant inheritance

- 1. In the New Covenant my sins are truly removed forever
- 2. In the New Covenant God's Law is written on my heart and mind to help me desire to obey God
- 3. In the New Covenant the Spirit of God dwells in me to empower me to serve & obey God!
- 4. Which does the Lord want to strengthen in me at the Table today?

B. The Table of the New Covenant

1. This is the Table of the New Covenant
2. Here we remember and receive anew our New Covenant Inheritance.
3. Come and receive from God!

The Last Supper

Mark 14:17-31

February 2, 2025

Communion

2 Corinthians 13:14

Teaching keywords: Atonement; redemption; Old Covenant; New Covenant; salvation and deliverance; Lord's Supper

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14

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.

²⁷ "You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written: "'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'" ²⁸ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee." ²⁹ Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not." ³⁰ "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "today — yes, tonight — before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times." ³¹ But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same. Mark 14:17-31