

Sermon 117: Passover, the Cross, and the New Covenant: Luke 22:7-20

Text: Luke 22:7-20 "Then came the day of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed. And he sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat. And they said unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare? And he said unto them, Behold, when ye are entered into the city, there shall a man meet you, bearing a pitcher of water; follow him into the house where he entereth in. And ye shall say unto the goodman of the house, The Master saith unto thee, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? And he shall shew you a large upper room furnished: there make ready. And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover. And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you..."

Summary: The Passover provides a perfect link from physical deliverance in Egypt to spiritual deliverance from eternal destruction at the cross.

Proposition: We must delight in Christ's redemption.

Interrogative: How can we do this?

Part 1: The story:

- **Christ sent Peter and John on a mission to prepare for the Passover: 22:7-8**
- **He gave specific instructions, and they successfully completed their mission: 22:9-13**
- **As they ate, He revealed the rich significance of "this Passover:" 22:14-16**
- **As He broke the bread and passed the cup, He highlighted a purpose of the Passover His disciples missed: 22:17-20**
- **After the meal He predicted their immediate failure: 22:21-34**

Part 2: His focus:

- **The significance of "this" Passover: 22:14-16**
 - **Timing: 22:14** "When the hour was come..."

- **Focus: 22:15** "With desire I have desired to eat this Passover...before I suffer..."
- **Fulfillment: 22:16** "I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God..."
- **The change in focus from this day forward: 22:17-20**
 - **His body would be given for them: 22:19** "This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me..."
 - **His blood would be shed for them: 22:20** "This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you..."
 - **His blood would be shed to establish a new covenant: 22:20** "This cup is the new testament in my blood..."

Part 3: Its background:

- **Each family prepared their home by removing all leaven:**
 - It reminded the people of the haste of the first Passover.
 - It symbolized the removal of defilement from the home.
 - It reminded the people of the need for renewal as they entered a new year.
- **The Pascal lamb was selected on the 10th day of Nissan and then killed on the 14th.**
 - It was selected because it was spotless.
 - Its blood was shed to remind them of the first Passover Lamb which died in the place of the first born.
 - Its blood was sprinkled on the altar, visualizing that this sacrifice was to God for the condemned.
 - This picture pointed forward to the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world.
- **The Passover meal:**
 - The meal began with **Psalm 113-114**
 - During it, the family would tell the story of the Passover to connect the celebration to the events they were memorializing.
 - They would then eat the roasted lamb with unleavened bread, bitter herbs, and wine.
 - At the end of the meal, they would close with **Psalm 115-118**
- **Highlighting the scriptures read during the meal:**
 - **Opening:**
 - **Psalm 113:1-9** "Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore...From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised. The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high, Who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth! He

raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill..."

- **Psalm 114:1-8** "When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language; Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion. The sea saw it, and fled: Jordan was driven back...Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob; Which turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters..."
- **Closing: Psalm 115:1-9** Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake. Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is now their God? But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them. O Israel, trust thou in the LORD: he is their help and their shield..."
- **Psalm 118:21-29** "I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Save now, I beseech thee, O LORD: O LORD, I beseech thee, send now prosperity. Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD...O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever..."

Part 4: Its significance:

- **"My body given for you"**
 - **Our sin was placed on Christ:**
 - **1 Peter 2:24** "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness..."
 - **Isaiah 53:11** "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities..."
 - **Isaiah 53:12** "He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many..."

- **Hebrews 9:28** "Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many..."
- **He was punished for our sin:**
 - **Isaiah 53:5** "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed..."
 - **Isaiah 53:10** "It pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand..."
 - **Galatians 3:13** "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us..."
- **"The new testament in my blood which is shed for you"**
 - **His blood "remitted" our sins:**
 - **ἄφεσις:** Forgiving a debt through an acceptable payment made on one's behalf:
 - **Matthew 26:28** "This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins..."
 - **Colossians 1:14** "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins..."
 - **Hebrews 9:22-28** "Almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission...now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself...So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many..."
 - **νάπησις:** Passing over an offense until it can be dealt with later.
 - **Romans 3:25** "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God..."
 - **Conclusion:** Without the cross and Christ's blood, God would have been unjust to forgive sin and treat sinners as if they had never sinned.
 - **The blood established a New Covenant: Hebrews 9-10**
 - **The Old Covenant served an important function, but it was inadequate to fully deal with our sin:**
 - **It pointed to a better covenant:**
 - **9:9** "A figure for the time then present..."
 - **10:1** "A shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things..."

- **It could not cleanse the conscience: 9:9** "In which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience..."
- **It only provided temporary purification: 9:13** "The blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh..."
- **The New Covenant is better on every level: Hebrews 9:11-15** "Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle...by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us...if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience...for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance..."
- **Christ's death and the shedding of His blood for us, ended the Old and established the New: 10:9-10** "He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all..."

Part 5: Timeless implications:

- **The Lord's Table is a sacred time of remembrance.**
- **We are coming to "proclaim the Lord's death" until He comes.**
 - Remember His body that "bore our sins," "was wounded for our transgressions," and "bruised for our iniquities."
 - Remember that the "chastisement of our peace was upon him" and that He has "redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us..."
 - Remember that we have "forgiveness of sins" through the "redemption of His blood."
 - Remember that we are the recipients of a better covenant because "by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."
- **Delight in what Christ has done for you and what the Father has given you in Him.**