

PREPARING THE LAMB | LUKE 22:1-23 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 8/16/2026

I. Preparing for Murder (1-6) | II. Preparing for Supper (7-13) | III. Preparing for Sacrifice (14-23)

INTRO: Jesus has taught the parables, fed the hungry, healed the sick, and delivered the oppressed. But now, the **determined hour has come** for the Lamb of God to be slain for the sins of the world. It is Wednesday of Passion Week, and before His arrest, trial, and crucifixion, **Jesus has several divine appointments still to fulfill**. None of this is accidental—God’s appointments are never accidents. Every moment is moving toward the cross, and every detail involves **PREPARING THE LAMB**.

I. PREPARING FOR MURDER (22:1-6) – READ: *The day has arrived, and the time has come!*

A. Time of Gathering (1-2) – There were three important feasts on the Jewish calendar: **Passover**, **Pentecost**, and **Tabernacles**. – (Deut 16:16) tells us that all men were required to go up to Jerusalem to Celebrate. – **The Feast of Passover** commemorated the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, and it was a time for both remembering and rejoicing. (*The REAL PASSOVER LAMB was about to be offered!*)

- **The Leaders Gathered**, not to celebrate but to conspire murder! **But they feared the people!**

B. Time of Entering (3) – This verse, as well as (John 13:2, 27), tells us that **Judas was overtaken by Satan himself**. Was he ever even saved? – We know that Judas had been given all of the same authority and blessings as the other eleven. – He touched Jesus, heard Jesus, ate with Jesus, and walked with Jesus, yet in the end, **HE BETRAYED JESUS!** (*Jesus knew it all along, Warned of it 10x’s in Scripture*)

1. Judas did not suddenly become corrupt in verse 3. For some time, he had been resisting truth and protecting secret sin. John tells us that **Judas was a thief who stole from the disciples’ money box** (John 12:6). – **Satan found an open door in a heart already surrendered to greed!**

- **James warns us:** *“Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin.”* (Jam 1:14-15)

2. **Sin usually begins privately before it reveals itself publicly**. – It begins as a desire we entertain, a compromise we excuse, or a secret we protect. What we refuse to surrender to Christ eventually gains greater influence over us. – **P/A:** Do not manage your secret sin... **Confess it and Forsake it**.

- *“He who covers his sins will not prosper...”* (Prov 28:13a)

C. Time of Betrayal (4-6) – **Notice who took the initiative:** Judas *“went his way.”* He voluntarily **sought the leaders out!** – He solved their problem by colluding with them on *“how to arrest Jesus;”* when the crowds were not around Him. – Notice the words: Conferred, Agreed, Promised, and Sought Opportunity... **All to BETRAY**, all to DECEIVE Messiah!

1. **Verse 5** tells us that **Judas agreed to betray Jesus for money**. – Matthew tells us the amount was **thirty pieces of silver**—the price assigned to a slave under the Law (**Ex 21:32; Matt 26:15**).

- **The One of infinite worth was sold for the price of a slave!**
- Judas believed he was profiting from the arrangement, but he was actually selling his soul cheaply.
- **Whenever WE choose sin over Christ**, we are making the same terrible exchange! (*We trade eternal treasure for temporary pleasure*).

2. **Verse 6** says **Judas** began looking for a convenient opportunity to sin. **Sin always wants Secrecy!**

- It looks for a place where No ONE is watching and a moment when No ONE will know... **Jesus knew!**

SEGUE: While Judas was preparing the place of betrayal, Jesus was preparing a place of **fellowship**. While the leaders were planning **how Jesus would Die**, Jesus was directing His disciples **toward a table** that would explain **WHY** He would die...

II. PREPARING FOR SUPPER (7-13) – **READ:** Throughout Jerusalem, **Passover lambs** were being prepared for sacrifice. Yet among them stood the **sinless Lamb of God**. – Jesus had repeatedly told His disciples: *“The Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected...and be killed...”* (Luke 9:22)

A. The Proper Time Arrived (7): Luke says the **Passover** *“must be killed.”* – Those words carry **tremendous significance**. – The way He was to be sacrificed would be on a Roman Cross! *However...*

1. **The Cross was NOT a tragic interruption of Jesus’ ministry.** – The cross was **The Mission** of His ministry. – Jesus came to teach, to heal, and reveal the Father—*but more than reveal...* **Jesus came to GIVE HIS LIFE as a RANSOM for sinners (Mark 10:45; 1 Tim 2:6).**
2. The word *“must”* points to **the Divine Necessity** of His sacrifice! – If sinners were to be **TRULY** forgiven, **the Lamb of God had to Die!** – God does not forgive sin by pretending it never happened. **His holiness demands justice!** – At the cross, *justice was satisfied* and *mercy was extended* because Jesus bore the judgment we deserved. (cf. Rom 3:25-26)

B. The Personal Assignment Was Given (8-9): Jesus then assigned **Peter and John** to prepare the meal. Their question was: *“Where do You want us to prepare?”*

1. **They** were not asked to **preach a sermon** or **perform a miracle**. They were told to **prepare a room and a meal!** – Which teaches us that **No Insignificant Assignments exist** when serving a worthy Savior!
2. The Right Question for every servant of Christ: **“Lord, where do You want ME?”** – Not, *“Where will I receive the most attention?”* Not, *“Where will I be most comfortable?”* But, **“Lord, where do You want me to serve?”** – People may never see what you do, **but Jesus does!**

P/A: **Spiritual Maturity** is revealed when we can **serve faithfully** without needing to be noticed publicly. – (Col 3:23) *“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”*

C. The Providential Sign Was Supplied (10-11): The sign was **a Man carrying a water pitcher...** a **task commonly performed by women**. / Jesus did not give Peter and John every detail in advance. He gave them enough instruction to obey the next step. *A great lesson for us!*

1. **Every detail was under Christ’s sovereign direction.** Faith does not need the whole plan—it simply obeys the next step and trusts Him with the rest.
2. We often want God to reveal the entire plan before we take the first step. – **But faith obeys what God has revealed and trusts Him with what remains hidden.** – (Psalm 119:105) says, *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”* – **A lamp does not illuminate the entire journey at once.** – It provides enough light for the next step!

P/A: If you are waiting for God to explain everything before you obey anything, **you may remain standing where He has already told you to move.**

D. The Prepared Place Was Found (12-13): *“they went and found it just as He had said to them...”* – That sentence summarizes the reliability of Jesus! i.e., **Everything Jesus says can be trusted.** –

Peter and John discovered Christ's provision by walking in Christ's direction. The furnished room was waiting—but they had to follow His instructions to find it.

P/A: God's provision is often DISCOVERED along the path of obedience. *(Do you obey His instructions?)*

III. PREPARING FOR SACRIFICE (14-23): The room was Prepared, the table was Set and the disciples were Assembled. **But this would be far more than another Passover meal.** Jesus was ready to take the familiar symbols of Israel's deliverance and reveal their ultimate fulfillment in Himself.

A. Desire of Jesus (14-16) – READ: Several key statements here require exposition:

1. **"With fervent desire I have desired..." (15a):** An emphatic Hebrew expression communicating deep, intense longing. – He greatly desired this final meal because He would use it to reveal the meaning of His approaching death. *(The disciples were preparing the Passover, but Jesus was preparing their hearts!)*
2. **"...to eat THIS Passover with you..." (15b):** This would be Jesus' final Passover before the cross! For centuries, the Passover lambs had pointed forward to Him. Now the true **Lamb of God** sat at the table with His disciples. – Every sacrificed lamb foreshadowed this moment.
3. **"...before I suffer" (15c):** Jesus knew exactly what awaited Him—betrayal, arrest, rejection, scourging, and crucifixion. His suffering was NOT an unexpected tragedy but a predetermined sacrifice. – **Even though the shadow of the cross hung over the table,** Jesus remained focused on Loving, Preparing, and Comforting His disciples. – (John 13:1), *"He loved His own until the end!"*
4. **"...until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God" (16):** Jesus looked beyond His suffering to the Coming Kingdom—the Cross would NOT be the end of the story. **A future banquet awaits,** when Christ will gather with His redeemed people in His kingdom (**cf. Luke 22:30**)

B. Declaring the Elements (17-20) – READ: Jesus then transforms the familiar Passover bread and cup into Enduring Symbols of His body given and His blood shed to establish the New Covenant.

1. **The Cup of Thanksgiving (17):** This Cup was the first of four in the Passover Seder meal. Jesus shared it with His disciples telling them to **"divide it."** – Even under the shadow of the cross, **Jesus gave thanks** and enjoyed fellowship with His own. – *(Luke's order differs from Matthew and Paul's.)*
2. **The Coming Kingdom (18):** Jesus looked beyond His suffering to His future reign and the promised fellowship with them (vv. 20,30) and the **Future Redeemed** (**cf. Matt 26:29; Rev 19:7-9**)
3. **The Broken Bread (19):** It represented Christ's body, voluntarily given in our place. It speaks of His sacrifice which was not to be forgotten (Isa 53:5; 1 Cor 11:23-24). – The phrase: **"Do this in remembrance of Me"** established Communion as a continuing memorial of His sacrifice. *(Which we do)*
4. **The New Covenant (20):** The cup represented Christ's blood, shed to establish the New Covenant—bringing forgiveness, reconciliation, and a restored relationship with God.
 - **The Old Covenant sacrifices** repeatedly reminded people of **SIN** but could not remove it permanently (Heb 10:1-4).
 - **(Jer 31:31-34)** promised a New Covenant of forgiveness, transformed hearts, and personal relationship with God.
 - Jesus fulfilled that promise through His blood (tt. Hebrews 9:13-15).

- a. Passover was the Shadow; **Christ is the Substance** (cf. Col 2:16-17). The disciples were remembering an old deliverance—**Jesus was preparing to accomplish the Ultimate Deliverance!**
- b. That promise was being fulfilled... *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."* (Eph 1:7)

SEGUE: Jesus had just revealed the greatness of His sacrifice—but seated at that sacred table was the man preparing to betray Him. *The conversation suddenly turns with...*

C. The Painful Disclosure (21-23) – READ: "...the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table."

1. **Betrayer Exposed (21):** From a moment of intimacy to sudden intensity, Jesus shocked the disciples with this statement. – Judas' hypocrisy was about to be exposed, which sheds light on Paul's instruction to *"Examine Himself"* when partaking of the Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:27-30).
2. **Betrayal Explained (22):** Jesus' following statement, informs us that **The Cross was determined by God**, *"Truly the Son of Man goes as it is determined..."* (Isa 53:10; Acts 2:23). – Yet Judas remained responsible for his own deliberate choice (Matt 26:14-16; Luke 22:48)
 - God's sovereignty did not Force Judas to sin! – Judas' betrayal did not derail God's plan!
 - God used even humanity's wickedness to accomplish His redemptive purpose.
3. **Believers Examined (23):** The other disciples were shocked and began questioning one another – Judas blended in so well that no one immediately suspected him.
 - (Mark 14:19) records, *and they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, "Is it I?"*
 - Up to this point, Judas himself was not even sure if it was he! (John 13:26-30) expose that!

P/A: This passage should not cause us merely to ask, *"How could Judas do that?"* – It should cause each of us to ask: *"Lord, is there anything in my heart that I am hiding from You?"*

- It is possible to deceive other believers, to use the right words, appear spiritual, and serve in ministry while hiding a heart that has never surrendered to Christ! But we cannot deceive Jesus

FINAL THOUGHTS: The leaders prepared the plot. Judas prepared the betrayal. The disciples prepared the room. But **Jesus lovingly Prepared to Sacrifice His life as the Lamb of God! (John 1:29)**

- **THE LAMB** bore our guilt, endured our judgment, and shed His blood to open the way of salvation! → That sacrificed Lamb Rose Again and is coming back as King!
- So do not merely admire Him, study Him, or sit near Him—Trust the Lamb, Follow the Lamb, and Worship the Lamb!
- (Rev 5:12) *Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"*

Now the question is: Is your heart Prepared for Him?