

We Are the Sheep of His Pasture...

Today’s Big Idea: God is full of grace for sinners because of Jesus Christ

The Preparation for the Passover

A foreboding scenario

The Announcement of Betrayal

The vagueness of the announcement

Each person invited to think of their own sin

1 Corinthians 11:28 “Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”

All have fallen short

George Yancey (PhD at Baylor) “Whenever I read the major prophets, they seem to almost never just criticize Israel. They also seem to criticize the surrounding nations as well. Prophets in the Bible seem to understand that no people group is perfect. All have fallen short of what God wants for us.”

“Be careful of ‘prophetic’ voices today that only criticize a specific group of people, whether that group is a Christian group or not. Such an approach implies that some groups are beyond criticism while others are the source of all evil. That is the way to dehumanization which suppresses the reality that all have fallen short.”

This will reshape how you relate to people.

Before you worship, forgive. “Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.” (See Matthew 5:24)

The Shared Meal

The bread

“This is my body” → Indicates the reality of his presence with us

The cup

“This is my blood of the [new] covenant poured out for many.”

Connection to the Passover

*Exodus 12:13, 21-24 “The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt...
21 Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and select lambs for yourselves according to your clans, and kill the Passover lamb. 22 Take a bunch of hyssop and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and touch the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. None of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. 23 For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians, and when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you. 24 You shall observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever [emphasis added].”*

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This will reshape the way you relate to God.

Questions for Personal Study

1. Why is it significant that the Lord’s Supper took place at the Passover?
2. How does Jesus’ announcement of his betrayal prompt us to look at our sin and investigate ourselves?
3. How does the Lord’s Supper reassure us of God’s love and presence?
4. Reflect: when you eat the bread and drink the cup at the Lord’s Supper, what goes through your mind? What goes through your heart? Do you reflect on your sin, on your relationships with others and unforgiveness, and on the greatness of his love for you? Why or why not?