



LUKE

A PROMISE KEPT

A MEAL WITH JESUS | LUKE 22:7-20

3. While Matthew, Mark and Paul only mention a single cup of wine, immediately following the breaking of bread. Luke highlights a cup of wine both before and after the breaking of the bread. The traditional Passover celebration included four cups of wine. The cups Luke refers to are more than likely the first cup and the third cup.

How does Jesus' statement "I will not drink of the fruit of the vine again until the kingdom of God comes" create a sense of anticipation and hope?

4. While the head of the household would interpret the significance of each element of the seder for his family, Jesus reinterprets the significance of the traditional passover meal for his disciples and for us.
- According to Jesus what is the significance of the bread?
 - How might the disciples remember Jesus in the breaking and receiving of the bread?
 - According to Jesus what is the significance of the cup?
 - While the Old Covenant was confirmed and sealed with the blood of sacrificial animals, how was the New Covenant confirmed and sealed?
5. While a new and better covenant is described throughout the Prophets, Ezekiel offers one of the more vivid descriptions of the new and better work accomplished for us in Christ.

EZEKIEL 36:25-27 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

What are some of the ways the new covenant surpasses the old?

Some pretty remarkable things happen around the table in Luke's gospel.

In chapter 5, Jesus makes the extraordinary move of inviting a tax collector into his inner circle. Levi, in turn "throws a great banquet in Jesus' honor (Luke 5:29)" and invites all of his former friends and associates. It is here that Jesus earns the reputation that will follow him throughout his ministry. "He welcomes tax collectors and sinners and eats with them (5:30; 15:2)."

A couple of chapters later we find Jesus reclining at the table of a pharisee named Simon. While Simon's guest are enjoying his hospitality, an uninvited guest crashes the party. Luke simply describes her as a woman who had lived a sinful life. She quietly positions herself behind Jesus hoping to offer him her most prized possession—an alabaster jar of perfume. She is so overwhelmed by the moment she begins to weep. As the tears flow they fall on the feet of Jesus. In the absence of a towel, she begins to wipe Jesus' feet with her hair. She kisses Jesus' feet, breaks the jar of perfume and pours it on his feet. Simon is deeply offended that Jesus would even allow a woman like this to touch him, much less welcome such an outrageous display. Jesus is offended that Simon fails to recognize the extravagant response of a life touched by grace.

In chapter 9, Jesus feeds five thousand people with a couple of fish and a few loaves of bread. In chapter 10 we find him dining in the home of Mary and Martha, where he scolds Martha for her busyness and tells us "Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken from her (10:42)." In chapters 11 and 14 we once again find Jesus sharing meals with Pharisees. He challenges their neglect of the poor and disenfranchised. He compares the kingdom of God to a great feast, and urges them to invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind (Luke 14:21)" to their parties, rather than their rich and well to do friends. In chapter 19, Jesus invites himself to dinner at the home of Zacchaeus. Before

the evening is over, Zacchaeus gives half of his possessions to the poor, and promises to pay back anyone he has cheated four times over. Jesus announces, "Today salvation has come to this house (19:9)."

That brings us to chapter 22, and the most significant meal in all of Scripture.

THE PREPARATION FOR PASSOVER (vv. 7-13)

⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

⁹ "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

¹⁰ He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" ¹² He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."

¹³ They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

1. Passover was the celebration of God's deliverance of Israel from their bitter bondage in the land of Egypt. On the night before they fled Egypt, they were to prepare a simple meal of roasted lamb and unleavened bread to sustain them in their journey. The blood from the lamb was to be painted over their doorposts so that God's judgment would passover those who trusted in his provision.

How does God's deliverance of Israel from her bondage in Egypt foreshadow the far greater deliverance we experience in Christ?

2. The preparation for Passover would have involved securing the perfect lamb, presenting it as a sacrifice in the temple, roasting the lamb, securing bitter herbs, unleavened bread and wine and preparing the table for the celebration.

How do the elements of his meal remind us of God's provision for us in Christ?

3. While the first six verses of chapter 22 might lead us to believe that "the chief priests and the teachers of the law" or even "Satan" were gaining the upper hand, verses 10-13 remind us that everything is unfolding according the plan and purpose of God.
 - a. What in these verses demonstrates Jesus' foreknowledge and absolute control over the events that were about to take place?

- b. Why is it a comfort to know that everything happened "just as Jesus had told them?"
- c. Why is it a comfort for us to know "that in all things God works together for the good of those who love God and have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28)?"
- d. How is he working for our good in this passage?

THE CELEBRATION OF PASSOVER (vv. 14-20)

¹⁴ When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

¹⁷ After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. ¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

²⁰ 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."

While the initial Passover was a simple meal eaten in haste, the celebration of Passover became an elaborate feast celebrated while reclining around a table. The celebration began at sunset and went well into the night. The head of the house would retell the story with vivid detail.

1. You begin to realize how incredibly important this meal is to Luke by the way he creates a sense of anticipation. In verse 1 he tells us "Now the Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching" He follows in verse 7 with "Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed" In verse 14 he introduces the meal by telling us "When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table."

Why do you think Luke goes out of his way to highlight the significance of this event?

2. You begin to realize how incredibly important this meal was to Jesus when he tells his disciples "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." The phrase we translate "eagerly desired" is a Hebraism that more literally might be translated "I desire with desire" which describes an intense longing.

Why do you think Jesus was so passionate about sharing this meal with his disciples?