



# PASSION WEEK

## THURSDAY

Good morning. It's Thursday of Passion Week. So, from Wednesday sundown till Thursday sundown, we have one recorded incident. Preparing the Passover meal, which Jesus would share with his disciples. Matthew records it in chapter 26, verse 17.

On the first day of the feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, where do you want us to make preparations for us to eat the Passover? And he replied, " Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, the Teacher says, my appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house." So, the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover for the meal. They would need a place in the city, which Jesus provided through an unnamed man.

They would take a lamb to the temple and have it sacrificed for their sins. They would then take it, cook it, and have it ready to eat at the Passover meal. There were other meal items to collect and cook. And most importantly, they were to prepare their hearts to partake of the meal. Remember, it was a reminder of the Passover incident where God spared his people from judgment in the land of Egypt because they sacrificed a lamb, spread the blood on the doorframes of their house, and waited.

When God's assigned angel arrived to judge, those who did not have faith, had not obeyed, and had no blood sacrifice for their sin, death came to that home. Yeah, God's judgment is real and serious. Something to be prepared for. That seems to be a good word for today, doesn't it? Be prepared.

Say it with me. Be prepared. It's why we don't ever come to the Lord's Supper table without first examining ourselves and being prepared to partake of the elements, renewing our covenant, devotion to Jesus Christ our Lord. It's why, at that Passover meal, when Judas took the bread from Jesus, but his heart was disloyal, Satan entered him, empowering him to fulfill the betrayal. But back to the story.

So, the disciples prepared the Passover meal on that Thursday. And as the day concluded and nightfall came, Friday began. And it was the most eventful day of Passion Week. We'll look at it tomorrow, and it will be a little longer because there's a lot to cover. But for today, Thursday, our words be prepared.

Remember, God the Father is a preparer. First Corinthians 2:9. It is written, no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined what God has prepared for those who love him. Hebrews 11:16. As it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.

Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. God the Son is a preparer. John 14:3 if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am, you may be also. We are told to be prepared for the Lord's return, always ready to welcome him should he return in our lifetime. In fact, being prepared is a sign of a true believer according to the parable of the 10 virgins.

I hope your heart is prepared today to walk with the Lord, to serve him faithfully, and receive him should he return. And if it's not prepared, then it's your responsibility, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to be prepared. You know, some of my greatest regrets in life are times that I was unprepared for an opportunity that came my way. And through those regrets I've learned and become more motivated to live my life, always prepared for the Lord, to hear him and obey Him. Peter wrote to the church in 1st Peter 3:15 in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason, for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect.

Paul wrote to Timothy, I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom, preach the Word. Be prepared in season and out of season. Reprove, rebuke, and exhort with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves a teacher, to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into lies. But as for you, always be sober-minded.

Endure suffering. Do the work of an evangelist. Fulfill your ministry. Such great words. So, Thursday - Be prepared.

Consider those scriptures and all the ways that we are to prepare ourselves to live prepared. So, let's take some moments to pray even now. Lord, forgive us when we're not prepared and, in these moments, prepare our hearts for each moment that you will give us this day, that we would honor you and please you in all our ways. We pray now, you continue. God bless.