

Luke 22:1-38 Hungry For The Last Supper

I had the privilege of performing a wedding ceremony yesterday for Rory and Ellie Schneider. It was such a joyous time and it was great to see their patient perseverance pay off as they fought against all the obstacles in their way in to finally arrive at that day. It took a lot of work to get to that altar and it will certainly take a lot of work in the future to build a great marriage when they leave the altar, but yesterday, at the altar and at the reception afterward, everything was bliss.

That's the closest illustration I can give you for what we are going to see this morning as we look at what is commonly called the Last Supper. Jesus has endured a lot of trials and difficulties to arrive at this moment, and He has a horrific ordeal ahead of Him as He endures the cross, but for a few hours He is happy to be with his disciples and He has a lot of things to share with them. Let's take a look:

1Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover.2And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people.

3Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve.4He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them.5And they were glad, and agreed to give him money.6So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

7Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.8So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it."9They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?"10He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters11and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'"12And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there."13And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

What is the Passover?

Abraham – Isaac – Jacob – 12 sons, including Joseph – sold into slavery in EG – survives the famine and brings his family down – eventually enslaved for 430 years – God raises up Moses to lead the nation out – Pharaoh won't let them go, so God sends ten plagues - #10 death of the first born son.

But He provides a way for the Israelites to escape the judgment by performing this strange ritual:

Ex 12:1The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,2"This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you.3Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.4And if the household is too small for a lamb, then he

and his nearest neighbor shall take according to the number of persons; according to what each can eat you shall make your count for the lamb.⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats,⁶and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.

⁷“Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.⁸They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it.⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts.¹⁰And you shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.¹¹In this manner you shall eat it: with your belt fastened, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. And you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord.¹³The 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.

¹⁴“This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast.

So, since 1446 B.C. the Jews have been celebrating this meal every year as a reminder of what God did to deliver them from slavery and set them apart as His own special chosen people.

This is not the first Passover meal that Jesus has celebrated, and it will not be the last as we will see, but there is something very special about it:

¹⁴And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him.¹⁵And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.¹⁶For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”¹⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves.¹⁸For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”¹⁹And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”²⁰And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

At this Passover meal Jesus is remembering something old and instituting something new and for that reason, it says He “earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you.”

You see, the morning after the events of the first Passover, the Egyptians let the Israelites go, they set them free and said ‘go, follow your God and worship Him, just leave us alone.’ And so Moses and Aaron led the nation **out of captivity** – they moved from being slaves under the authority of Pharaoh, to being free men under the authority of God who was present to lead them and guide them. They **saw** His presence in the form of a cloud that led them by day and a pillar of fire that led them by night. In addition to all the miracles they had seen in Egypt, they had this daily reminder that God was with them, His presence was *right there*.

And the point of it all *was to bring them into fellowship with Him*. He was going to give them the Law to teach them how to live, and He was going to give them this blessed land of Israel that flowed with milk and honey. It wouldn't be as good as Eden was, but in many ways, God was working to lead them back towards much of what was lost there. He gave them a system of worship to use in approaching Him and instructions on how to build a tabernacle where His Spirit would dwell in the midst of the nation.

But all along He also promised to do something more one day, because as the book of Hebrews tells us, it is impossible for the blood of sheep and bulls to wash away our sins. So, all the rules and feasts God gave them at that time were actually symbols that pointed forward to what He would eventually do in Jesus.

Now that reality had come.

Jesus was about to be sacrificed as the perfect lamb of God – His blood would be smeared on the wood, not of the doorframe, but of the cross, and those who are found to be covered by it will be protected not just for a night, but for all of eternity.

At this Passover meal, He institutes the Lord's Supper – a means for us to remember what He has done in setting us free not from bondage in Egypt, but from bondage to sin, leading us out into the life that He has prepared for us – first on this earth, but eventually in Heaven; dwelling with us – not in the form of a cloud or pillar and not inside a tabernacle somewhere in the desert, but in the form of His Holy Spirit who comes to live inside every person who trusts in Christ.

Jesus FERVENTLY desired to accomplish this new Exodus. Hebrews 12 even tells us that “for the joy that was set before him [he] endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” He is about to go through 24 hrs or so of absolute horror as He is beaten, mocked, tried, and executed and yet He is FERVENTLY looking forward to it, and despising the shame **for the joy that is set before Him**.

The New Covenant has been instituted and now He looks forward to the joy of returning to His rightful throne in Heaven - victorious over the sin that has separated us from God for so long and looking forward to the coming judgment of sin and restoration of the world to what it was always intended to be.

But, He didn't just fervently desire to do all of this by Himself – what is really remarkable to me is that He says He earnestly desired to eat it **with them – the disciples!**

Wouldn't we all have understood if He just needed to kind of go off on His own for a while and take care of all this by Himself, without any distractions? Kind of like when He was led into the wilderness after His baptism and was tempted by Satan three times. Wouldn't it make sense if that was how the end of His life played out too?

But no. He **joyfully** surrounds Himself with this company of misguided, self-interested, disciples. Watch what happens right on the heels of this phenomenally important, eternally significant moment:

[21](#)But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table.[22](#)For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!”[23](#)And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

[24](#)A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.[25](#)And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors.[26](#)But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.[27](#)For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

[28](#)“You are those who have stayed with me in my trials,[29](#)and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom,[30](#)that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

[31](#)“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,[32](#)but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”[33](#)Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.”[34](#)Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”

So, this is the Rock, Peter, the ‘head’ of the apostles; the one who will deny Jesus three times.

But do you see this? Jesus says, I have prayed for you. “And **when** you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” Jesus knew Peter would blow it! According to John 6 He knew that Judas would be betray Him, and He knew that Thomas would doubt Him in a few days when He reappeared after the resurrection.

So, just out of the select group known as the apostles, Jesus has a betrayer, a denier, a doubter and a whole crew of self-inflated bickerers – but He **EARNESTLY** desired to eat this Passover meal with them!

Do you see the grace and mercy of God!?! He wasn’t playing with the A-Team but He loved them regardless. He spent His life and shed His blood to save knuckleheads like them and like us, and gave us all the Lord’s Supper to remember His sacrifice.

Brothers and sisters, if Jesus loves THEM He most certainly loves *you*. You haven’t done any worse than they did, and if you are found marked by His blood, you have a place in the coming kingdom that cannot be taken away.

The only person to suffer was the one who intentionally resisted Jesus – Judas removed Himself from fellowship and never came back.

But now where is all of this headed? Well, it's about to get ugly.

When the Israelites were delivered out of Egypt, they still had a lot of work to do, a lot of miles to travel on foot, through the desert, as they traveled to the Promised Land, and to make matters worse, they had barely gotten out of Dodge when the Egyptians reversed course and pursued them to recapture them and bring them back.

Just because they were free didn't mean life was going to be easy. And it won't be any easier for the apostles either:

[35](#)And he said to them, "When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "Nothing."[36](#)He said to them, "But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one.[37](#)For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: 'And he was numbered with the transgressors.' For what is written about me has its fulfillment."[38](#)And they said, "Look, Lord, here are two swords." And he said to them, "It is enough."

The main point Jesus is making is that things are going to get hostile – they will no longer be so warmly welcomed when they go places. They can count on hostility instead of hospitality because the leaders of the nation have decided their Savior is an enemy of the state. The disciples were never instructed to launch an armed rebellion, but they were warned to provide for themselves. The swords could be used for protection at the very least from wild animals and other threats while they traveled.

And this is the world we live in – a world caught between what has been and what will be. With Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, we have received forgiveness of our sins and the promise of a place in the kingdom – the kingdom which we experience to a limited degree here on earth already as God dwells within us and leads us day by day – but the land is still wild, and it is at times down right hostile towards us.

And so, we regularly partake in communion, to remind ourselves of what Jesus has done, but also, to look forward to the day when He will gather us all together to another meal – and all us misfits, deniers, doubters, and self-promoters who have been marked with the blood of the lamb will rejoice in Heaven:

Rev 19:[6](#) Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

"Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.

[7](#)Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;

8it was granted her to clothe herself
with fine linen, bright and pure”—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

9And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper
of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.”