

Jesus Christ, Our Passover, Part One

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction: Mark 12:12-26

- A. What would you eat as your last meal if you knew you were to die tomorrow?
 - 1. In our prison system, a condemned prisoner is usually allowed to choose what they will have for their last meal.
 - a. Gary Gilmore, the first man executed after the death penalty was reinstated in 1977, chose hamburgers, eggs, potatoes and bourbon
 - b. Ted Bundy, serial killer executed in Florida in 1989, had a burrito and Mexican rice.
 - c. Timothy McVeigh, executed in 2001 for his part in the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, OK had two pints of Mint Chocolate Chip ice Cream.
 - d. John Wayne Gacy, serial killer who murdered at least 33 young men, had Kentucky Fried Chicken, fried shrimp, French fries, strawberries and Diet Coke.
 - e. Walter LaGrand, executed in Arizona in 1999, asked for six fried eggs, 16 strips of bacon, one large serving of hash browns, a pint of pineapple sherbet, a breakfast steak, a cup of ice, 7-Up, Dr. Pepper, Coke, hot sauce, coffee, sugar, and four Roloids.
 - 2. I would have Thanksgiving turkey, bread right out of the oven, sun-ripened tomatoes from my garden, fresh picked red raspberries, and Bruster's caramel praline ice cream
- B. The last supper recorded in scripture that Jesus ate was the Passover.
 - 1. For Christians, it may have been the most important meal ever eaten in the history of humankind
 - 2. The meal Jesus ate on the eve of His death was designed by God to exalt His Son.
 - 3. It is a meal that proclaims the Gospel of the grace of God and the resurrection to a home in heaven.
 - 4. It is a meal that exemplifies new spiritual covenant between God and penitent sinners.
- C. Jesus Christ is our Passover - 1Cor. 5:7-8; 1Peter 1:18-20
 - 1. Preparations for the Supper
 - 2. Problem at the Supper
 - 3. Portrait in the Supper

I. PREPARATIONS FOR THE SUPPER

- A. Mark 14:12-16 - The purpose for the preparations
 - 1. The Passover was the main feast of the Jewish religious year held on the 14th day of the 1st month of the Jewish calendar - Ex. 12:6
 - a. Roughly corresponds with April in the modern calendar
 - 2. Also called "The Feast Of Unleavened Bread", because no yeast was to be used or kept in the house during the period of the feast.

3. Ex 12:1-11 - Every family in Israel was to take the following steps:
 - a. They were to choose a lamb, which was to be killed on the evening of the Passover - Ex. 12:3-6
 - b. They were to take the blood of the lamb and put some on the door posts of their homes - Ex. 12:7
 - c. They were to roast the lamb over a fire and eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread - Ex. 12:8
 - d. They were to eat this meal dressed for a journey, with their shoes on, walking sticks in hand, and to eat it in as though in a hurry - Ex. 12:11

B. The pattern of the meal

1. They drank a cup of red wine mixed with water - Luke 22:17
2. There was a ceremonial washing of hands which symbolized the need for spiritual and moral cleansing.
3. They ate bitter herbs which symbolized their bondage in Egypt.
4. They drank a second cup of wine, at which time the head of the house explained the meaning of Passover.
5. They sang the first two Hallel Psalms - Psalms 113-114
6. The lamb was brought to the table, and the head of the household distributed it with the unleavened bread. The unleavened bread symbolized haste. There was no time to allow the dough to rise before the journey would begin.
7. They drank a third cup of wine, and then concluded the meal by singing the rest of the Hallel Psalms - Psalms 115-118
8. Orthodox Jews still observe the Passover the same way it has been observed for thousands of years. Sadly, most have lost or do not discern its meaning.

C. The personal nature of the Passover

1. The feast involved a lamb (Ex. 12:3-8). The family was to choose "a lamb," afterward called "your lamb," making the meal personal
2. They were to select the lamb on the tenth (Ex. 12:3), and were keep the lamb until the fourteenth (Ex. 12:6).
3. An attachment would develop between the family and the lamb. This was intentional; God wanted them to see the high cost of sin, and He wanted them to know that salvation is an intensely personal business.
6. The lamb was to be without blemish (Ex. 12:5), a picture of perfection and purity - 1Peter 2:22; 2Cor. 5:21
7. The lamb was to be slain and its blood applied to the door posts of the house (Ex. 12:7, 22-23). The family was to gather inside the house and eat the meal. When the angel passed through the land to kill the first born, those in homes with blood on the doors would be safe.
 - a. Another parallel to Jesus Christ. The only shelter anyone will have in the Judgment from the wrath of God against sin is the blood of Christ - Rev. 1:5; Rom. 5:9
8. The lamb was to be roasted in fire (Ex. 12:8), a picture of judgment; it reminded Israel that the judgment of God was being poured out on

sinful Egypt, and the only thing that prevented Israel from being judged along with Egypt was the blood of the lamb who had died to save them. The lamb had been judged with fire in their place.

a. Jesus was judged in our place - Gal. 3:13; 1Peter 3:18

9. The lamb had to be eaten (Ex. 12:8). It did no good to select a lamb. It did no good to merely kill the lamb. The lamb had to be eaten.

a. Jesus death on the cross is meaningless to us until we believe, obey, and partake of Him - John 6:48-51; Mark 14:22-24

D. Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb, sanctifies and purifies us - Heb. 10:10-18

1. His blood saves us from sin, wrath, and death

2. Heb. 9:22-24; 1John 1:7; Eph. 1:7, 2:13

E. Hymn - Nothing but the Blood of Jesus