

Jesus Christ, Our Passover, Conclusion

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Lesson One: Preparations for the Passover

B. Lesson Two:

1. Problem at the Passover

2. Portrait in the Passover

I. PROBLEM AT THE PASSOVER

A. Mark 14:17-21 - Jesus and the apostles arrive to eat the Passover. Between 17 & 18, the events of John 13:3-17 take place. In those verses, Jesus assumes the place of a slave and washes the feet of His disciples. He teaches them a lesson in humility, that true leaders serve others.

1. Not just washing their feet, but removing their sandals - Mark 1:7

B. Mark 14:18 - The announcement about betrayal

C. Mark 14:19 - Their astonishment - Matt. 26:25

D. Mark 14:20-21 - The appeal; Jesus used this opportunity to reach Judas one more time.

1. John 13:21-27 - To be handed the "sop" by the host at a meal was the high form of respect and affection.

2. Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper is incorrect. By the first century, Jews had adopted the Greco-Roman manner of feasting, reclining at the table facing inward leaning against the person behind him. This is how John was able to rest his head on Jesus. That Judas was nearby to receive the sop from Jesus meant that they were reclined near each other. In other words, Judas was as near to Jesus as John.

3. Jesus is not isolating Judas; He gave him every opportunity to repent

4. Judas turned away and went to complete his plan - John 13:27-30.

5. Why did he choose hell over heaven? Why did he choose to go on in his sins, knowing the consequences of that decision?

6. One will either confess Jesus willingly in life - Phil. 2:10-11

7. Or he will confess Jesus in terror in Judgment, but too late - Rom. 14:11

II. PORTRAIT IN THE PASSOVER

A. Mark 14:22-26 - Jesus used the Passover to institute a new covenant. The old covenant that had been in force since the Law was given to Moses revolved around keeping rituals and symbolic sacrifices. These rituals and sacrifices looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, Who would be God's perfect sacrifice. The new covenant would look back to the finished work of the Messiah. Instead of keeping religious rituals and performing symbolic sacrifices, we rest by faith on Jesus sacrifice for our sins on the cross, His burial, and resurrection the third day. In this Passover, Jesus teaches the whole world about the new covenant, the Gospel. He taught that salvation does not come through religious rituals and keeping the Old Law; salvation comes by the Gospel of Jesus Christ - Eph. 2:4-7

B. Mark 14:22-24 - The example

1. The Old Testament prophets used dramatic illustrations to communicate to their audiences.
 - a. Ezekiel shaved off his beard and hair, an outrageous act for a Hebrew man. He took his hair and divided it into three piles. One pile he burned, the second he struck with a sword, and the third he scattered to the wind. This was a picture of the judgment that was to fall on Israel - Ez. 5:1-3
 - b. Jeremiah constructed a yoke and wore it around to illustrate the coming Babylonian captivity - Jer. 27:1-7
 - c. The prophet Abijah tore his clothes into twelve pieces and gave ten to Jeroboam to illustrate the fact that God was about to take them from Israel to form the Northern Kingdom - 1Kings 11:29-33
 2. At the Passover Feast, Jesus combined words and symbols to communicate truth. As the meal progressed, the host or head of the family, in this case Jesus, explained each part of the feast.
 - a. The bitter herbs reminded them of bondage as slaves in Egypt.
 - b. The wine represented God's fellowship with the believer in the midst of trial.
 - c. Stewed fruits, the color and consistency of clay, reminded them of the bricks they had been forced to make.
 - d. Unleavened bread represented separation from evil and haste.
 - e. The roasted lamb represented purity and redemption.
- C. Mark 14:22 - The unleavened bread represents His body
1. A customary Hebrew statement made when the bread was presented at the table was "Praised be Thou, O Lord, Sovereign of the world, Who causes bread to come forth from the earth."
 2. Jesus gave new meaning to the bread by making Himself the bread that God sent from heaven - John 6:33-35; Luke 22:19; 1Cor. 11:23-24
 3. Many rejected the symbolism, and they died lost - John 6:66
 4. This great truth is what we commemorate every time we partake of the Lord's Supper. It is a truth worth remembering.
- D. Mark 14:23-24 - The fruit of the vine represents His blood
1. Jewish Passover tradition would say the cup blessing: "May the all-merciful One make us worthy of the days of the Messiah and of the life of the world to come. He brings salvation of His King. He shows covenant faithfulness to His anointed, to David and his seed forever. He makes peace in His heavenly places. May He secure peace for us and for all Israel. And you say, 'Amen!'"
 2. Jesus gave new meaning to the cup. It would become the symbol of the new covenant validated by the blood of the sacrifice, His own blood. It is the reminder that He took our place and carried our punishment
 - a. Isa. 53:4-6, 10; Rom. 4:25, 5:8; 1Cor. 15:3; 2Cor. 5:21; Eph. 5:2
 - b. 1Peter 3:18; Rom. 3:25-26
- E. Mark 14:25 - The expectation
1. That Passover marked the beginning of the testimony of the death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and the eventual return of Jesus Christ

2. 1Cor. 11:26; Heb. 12:2; Rev. 19:11-16

F. Mark 14:26 - His exodus

1. When they finished the meal, Jesus and the apostles sang the final Hallel Psalms and left the upper room. The disciples didn't know what was about to happen. They did not know that before the sun set the next day, Jesus would be arrested, tried, condemned to death, beaten, crucified, and buried. They did not understand the truth that He was headed to His death. They didn't know, but Jesus did. Even though He knew that He was headed for a trap, He went anyway. Even though He knew that Judas would bring soldiers to arrest Him, He went anyway. Even though He knew that the people would reject Him, He went anyway. Even though He knew that the soldiers would beat Him, He went anyway. Even though He knew that He would be nailed to a cross in shame, He went anyway. Even though He knew about the pain He would suffer, He went anyway. He had eaten the last supper, the Passover feast that was planned and anticipated before the world began, and now He must face the substitutionary death that was planned for him.