

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

[Mar 14:12-25 NKJV] 12 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover [lamb], His disciples said to Him, "Where do You want us to go and prepare, that You may eat the Passover?" 13 And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him. 14 "Wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?" ' 15 "Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished [and] prepared; there make ready for us." 16 So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover. 17 In the

evening He came with the twelve. 18 Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me." 19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, "[Is] it I?" And another [said], "[Is] it I?" 20 He answered and said to them, "[It is] one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish. 21 "The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born." 22 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke [it], and gave [it] to them and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 23 Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave [it] to them, and they all drank from it. 24 And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. 25 "Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Our study this morning begins the final day in the life of Jesus.

Unlike in our culture, where we view the beginning of the day at midnight, for the Jew, the new day always started at 6:00 PM.

And the significance of the approaching day in our text was that it was going to be the start of Passover.

This is why Jesus and His disciples are in Jerusalem – to partake of the Passover Lamb.

Now, last week, we looked at the scriptures in the book of Exodus regarding the Feast of the Passover –

- how a lamb was supposed to be selected without blemish,
- how it was supposed to be cooked – it couldn't be boiled, it had to be cooked whole.
- we looked at how and when it was supposed to be eaten – during the night of the Passover – it had to be totally consumed that night. No Lamb sandwiches the following day.

Most importantly, we looked at how Jesus Christ is the Passover Lamb and the significance of Him dying for you and me on Passover.

For the Jew, they celebrated the deliverance from the final plague in Egypt – as the blood of the lamb on the doorpost allowed their home to pass over from the judgment –

And for us, we have been passed over in judgment as well by the washing away of our sins by our Passover Lamb. Amen!!!

You see church, from the time of man's fall in the Garden of Eden – the scriptures have been pointing to the Passover we are going to go over in our study this morning.

How early in scripture??? – turn with me to the book of Genesis 3.

Now, we should all be very familiar with the events in the Garden of Eden.

God told man not to eat of the fruit of a particular tree.

Eve was deceived by the serpent – she eats from the fruit and then Adam eats from the fruit.

And the scriptures tell us that they hid from the presence of God because they were naked.

Now, look at verse 21

[Gen 3:21 NKJV] 21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Notice that the tunics were made of skins. They were not tunics of banana leaves or palm branches. God killed animals on their behalf, in their place, as substitutes; then He clothed Adam and Eve with their skins.

And from that point on, we see sacrifices – the shedding of blood used for the atonement of sins.

We saw it in the life of Abraham also -

Turn to the right to chapter 22.

[Gen 22:4-8 NKJV] 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. 5 And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you." 6 So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid [it] on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. 7 But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where [is] the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 And Abraham said, "My son, **God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.**

If one reads the rest of chapter 22, we see that God does provide the lamb as a substitute for Abraham to sacrifice as a substitute for Isaac.

And the amazing thing about verse 8 is that in the original Hebrew text – the word for is not there. So if we were reading it in Hebrew, it would read – God will provide Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.

And of course that speaks of Jesus Christ –

Now, in verse 12 – the disciples are asking Jesus where are they going to partake of the Passover feast. Remember, they had been staying in Bethany the entire week. The Passover feast had to be eaten within the city limits and because of the multitudes – rooms were at a premium.

The question becomes, why were the disciples left in the dark regarding where they were going to partake of the Passover feast –

And the reason is that Judas had already agreed to betray Jesus – we studied that last week in verses 10 and 11.

If the disciples knew where they were going to partake of the Passover, Judas would have notified the religious rulers of the meeting place and they could have arrested Jesus there.

The problem is that it wasn't the time yet for Jesus to be arrested.

Certain things had to occur still –

I told you guys that Judas was the treasurer within the group – so normally, it would be his responsibility to handle the accommodations – not this time.

So Jesus sends two of His disciples on a special mission -

Let's look at our text again starting in verse 13,

[Mar 14:13-15 NKJV] 13 And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him. 14 "Wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My

disciples?" ' 15 "Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished [and] prepared; there make ready for us."

In the gospel of Luke, it tells us that the two disciples that were sent were Peter and John.

The mission that Jesus sends them was clear and it had to be followed precisely. Remember, there were hundreds of thousands of pilgrims in the city.

We see that Jesus instructs them to look for the man carrying a pitcher of water – this is significant because it would be uncommon to see this as the gathering of water from the wells was mainly reserved for women. This man with a pitcher of water was going to stand out within the multitudes.

They were to follow this man to the house of his master and there they were going to be shown a fully furnished upper room.

Many of the homes during these days had an upper room that was accessible by a staircase on the outside of the house – and this was normally reserved for special occasions or used to house guests.

Now, before we continue, I want to make sure that as we read our text we get a true biblical picture of the setting that this feast/dinner is going to take place

The Last Supper

Show painting – Leonardo da Vinci

Things that are wrong with the painting

- The disciples are sitting upright when scripture tells us that they were laying down. The tables were short and people would lay down on pillows as they ate. This is how Jesus was able to wash their feet with ease and in one of the gospels it even tells us that John leaned on the chest of Jesus.

- The time of day is wrong – the meal was supposed to be eaten at night while in the painting we see that it occurs during daylight
- The meal itself is wrong as they appear to be eating loaves of bread and fish. When the Passover meal was one of Unleavened Bread and Lamb.

Peter and John did just as Jesus commanded them and as they were obedient to His will, we see God's sovereignty and providence as He prepares and provides everything for His will to be accomplished.

And I believe we can learn from this example of Peter and John as they were simply obedient to what Jesus asked them to do.

I am pretty sure as they were given these instructions – they must have been scratching their heads. Look for a man carrying a pitcher

of water??? We are to follow this stranger to the home of his master???

Sometimes we don't understand the circumstances that are placed before us or maybe we feel God had placed something in our hearts and we are disobedient to His will because we don't understand it.

Our job is to simply trust Him and to walk by faith. To be obedient to His will.

So the 12 disciples gather in the upper room to partake of the Passover, they are sitting there eating and then Jesus drops a bombshell.

[Mar 14:18 NKJV] 18 Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me."

In the Jewish culture, partaking of dinner with someone was considered a sign of loyalty – of oneness, of closeness as one partakes of the same nourishment.

What Jesus is saying here is that someone really close to Him is going to be the one that betrays Him.

Turn with me to the book of Psalms 41,

Listen to the words of King David,

[Psa 41:9 NKJV] 9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up [his] heel against me.

King David was not only betrayed by his own son Absalom but also by his most trusted advisor, Ahithophel.

Psalm 41:9 was fulfilled in the life of David and much later here in the gospels as Judas betrays Jesus.

In fact, in the gospel of John, Jesus quotes psalm 41:9 when He reveals to Judas that He knows that he will betray Him.

Did Jesus know that it was Judas??? Of course –

So the question is why didn't Jesus simply come out and say, BTW guys, Judas is the one that is going to betray Me???

Why grieve or trouble the other eleven???

In fact we see that the other disciples were troubled at what Jesus had said.

[Mar 14:19 NKJV] 19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, "[Is] it I?" And another [said], "[Is] it I?"

Church, I believe that the reason that Jesus said what He said in verse 18 – was so that the disciples would be able to do a self-examination of where they stood.

The message was intended for one – Judas.

However, everyone in the room contemplated the message that Jesus gave.

This is the way the word of God works – every time we hear it or when we read it at home, we have to continuously come to Him and ask, Is it I???

Always remember that there is always something just for you and me as the Word is taught; but we must take it all in to discover what is uniquely ours.

We must sift through it to find to find the particular treasure that God has planted for each of us.

We cannot walk out of here on a Sunday Morning or Wednesday evening and say – well that message wasn't intended for me. If we do, we are not searching deep enough.

So, Jesus sees their sorrow and reveals to the disciples who it's going to be.

[Mar 14:20 NKJV] 20 He answered and said to them, "[It is] one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish.

Well, He kind of reveals who it's going to be.

He doesn't mention Judas by name – He simply emphasizes the heinous nature of the betrayal of Judas.

In the gospel of John, John asks Jesus who the betrayer is and Jesus reveals that it is Judas by dipping the bread in the dish and giving it to Judas.

Jesus knows that Judas has already betrayed Him, yet He gives to Judas one last gesture of love and friendship.

I believe He was giving Judas one last chance to turn from sin.

Up to verse 20, Judas had every opportunity to repent of what he was about to do.

However, he chose not to.

I mentioned on Wednesday night that there are many who will say – poor Judas, God predestined him to hell. Not so.

God used Judas' greed for good in the same way that God used the evil intentions of Joseph's brothers for good.

Judas was given every opportunity to repent – if he had, God would have had someone else lined up to do His will.

[Mar 14:21 NKJV] 21 "The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born."

Jesus would die as a sacrifice for our sins whether Judas betrayed him or not. It had been planned long ago by God and spoken of by the prophets.

(Isa 53:5 NKJV) But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

But even though it was predicted, this doesn't mean that Judas didn't have a choice in the matter. I believe that Jesus is giving Judas a chance to do the right thing right up until the end.

Regarding the second part of verse 21 -

What a tragic thing for Jesus to say about a person. He would have been better off if he had never been born.

Yet this is the case for every person who rejects Jesus Christ.

It would be better if they had never been born.

God made you and has wonderful plans for your life.

Yet a life without Jesus is a life without purpose.

Nothing but living nowhere near what you were designed for.

Jesus died on the cross in order to pay the penalty for our sins. We may not understand the enormous offense our sins bring, but our sin deserves death.

We deserve the penalty of eternity in hell, yet when Jesus died for us, He delivered us from hell.

He paid a debt He didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay.

Without Jesus, a person has nothing to look forward to but a fearful eternity in hell.

Now starting in verse 22, we have the institution of the Lord's Supper.

Now, the gospel of John tells us that Judas leaves immediately after Jesus hands him the piece of bread that was dipped. So Judas isn't there in the room with them during the Lord's Supper.

[Mar 14:22-24 NKJV] 22 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke [it], and gave [it] to them and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 23 Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave [it] to them, and they all drank from it. 24 And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.

How are we supposed to "take" and "eat?"

Obviously the exhortation is, first and foremost, spiritual.

We are to appropriate Jesus' death on the Cross by believing He is our Savior. As to how, practically, we observe this, the apostle Paul gives us valuable instruction on just what Jesus meant by "take" and "eat."

[1Corinthians 11:23-26 NKJV] 23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the [same] night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and

when He had given thanks, He broke [it] and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner [He] also [took] the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink [it], in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

The church in Corinth had a potluck once a week on Sunday night and they partook of communion after the meal.

Simple – yet powerful.

We partake of communion here on the first Sunday of every month.

There are churches that partake of it during their midweek service and that is ok also.

Some use saltine crackers, some use fish crackers and some use big loaves of bread. Nowhere are we commanded to use a certain type of bread.

Some churches make the congregation get up to receive communion and others pass it out.

You see, communion is not a ritual that must be performed in a prescribed manner, with just the right elements.

It's a memorial – a memorial to what He has done, to what He is doing and to what He is going to do, and the Lord has graciously given us a great deal of freedom to enjoy it.

And we do this because we tend to forget what God has, is, and will do in our lives.

The New covenant that Jesus speaks about is the work on the cross. No longer would we be subjected to bringing sacrifices to the altar that only covered our sins.

Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice who died once and for all and has cleansed us (not just covered) from every sin we have ever done and every sin we will do – because we are still not perfected.

[Mar 14:25 NKJV] 25 "Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

This statement is Jesus' promise He prevails as the Lamb. About to be betrayed, then murdered, He spoke of His ultimate victory over Satan, sin, Hell, and death as something already accomplished.

Never forget His words on the cross – it is finished.

When He does - come back, that is - there will be a great feast upon the earth.

Jesus said He would fast from drinking "the fruit of the vine" until He can drink it with you and me in that glorious celebration. (Rev

19)

One day church! We will drink of the fruit of the vine with Him.

[Mar 14:26 NKJV] 26 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Despite knowing that His betrayer was already on his way to betray Him and that He was going to be crucified that day, we see Jesus singing hymns.

For the Jew, the end of the Passover meal was always followed by the singing of Psalm 116-118.

Praising God for His deliverance and His mercy.

It is fitting as it provides an appropriate description of how God would guide his Messiah through distress and suffering to glory as He fulfills God's will because of the love that He has for you and me.

Amen.

Let's pray...

