

The Last Supper

April 24, 2016

Luke 22:1-34

Passover is the name given to the chief of the three great historical annual festivals of the Jews. It was kept in remembrance of the Lord's passing over the houses of the Israelites (Exodus 12:13) when the first born of all the Egyptians were destroyed. It is called also the "Feast of Unleavened Bread" (Exodus 23:15; Mark 14:1; Acts 12:3), because during its celebration no leavened bread was to be eaten or even kept in the household (Exodus 12:15).

God will provide a lamb - Gen 22:7

Lamb of God that takes away sin of world - John 1:29 and 36

Jesus steadfastly set His face to Jerusalem - Luke 9:51

Everything leading up to Jesus' death were **appointments**, not **accidents**. They had been determined by the Father written centuries ago in the Old Testament. Jesus' death wasn't a catastrophe, but a victory.

Passover - King Herod and Pontius Pilate were there (Jerusalem) instead of Tiberius and Caesarea, respectively.

During Passover, the people were to clear their houses of any leaven. Leaven represented sin because it puffed up.

Leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

The religious leaders had cleansed their homes, but not their hearts.

The Lord's Supper reveals several things:

1) **Jesus' love** (vs. 14-16)

Think of the elaborate plan that was set up from Genesis onward with the sacrifice (shedding of blood) for the sins to the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus shedding blood for our sins. The only blood that could wash away sins was Jesus' blood.

For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. **Hebrews 10:2-3**

In regards to God's calendar, after this Passover there would not be another until the kingdom of God. (Luke 22:16)

This was Jesus saying He was the ultimate sacrifice; He was what the people had been waiting for.

Jesus was and is the Final Passover

2) **Treachery** (21-23)

In the choosing of The Twelve:

"Before He chose His twelve apostles, Jesus spent a whole night in prayer, so we must believe that it was the Father's will that Judas be among them. But the selection of Judas did not seal his fate: rather, it gave him opportunity to watch the Lord Jesus closely, believe and be saved. God in His sovereignty had determined that His Son would be betrayed by a friend, but divine foreknowledge does not destroy human responsibility or accountability. Judas made each decisions freely and would be judged accordingly, even though he still fulfilled the decree of God." ~ Warren Wiersbe

Judas:

- **Looked** the part.
- Did everything the other **disciples** did.
- Left what he had to follow Jesus.
- Yet, he didn't **KNOW** Jesus.

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom you gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. **John 17:12**

The word *perdition* means “eternal damnation” or “utter destruction.” It can also be used as a synonym for *hell*. (www.gotquestions.org)

Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, “What you do, do quickly. **John 13:27**

The Enemy can’t control a believer:

Demon possession involves a demon having direct/complete control over the thoughts and/or actions of a person (**Matthew 17:14-18; Luke 4:33-35; 8:27-33**). Demon oppression or influence involves a demon or demons attacking a person spiritually and/or encouraging him/her into sinful behavior.

In all of the New Testament passages a demon is never brought out of a believer.

We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one. **1 John 5:18-19**

Warning: It’s not what we do, claim to be, or look like, but what have we done with Jesus?

3) **Worldliness** (24-40)

Talking about a case of, “What were you thinking?”

Jesus had just finished having a meaningful Passover with His Disciples that was pointing to His death when the question arose of who was greatest.

They took that which was most important and flipped it upside down. It went from all about Jesus to all about them.

Do you and I do this? Do we often worry about meaningless or insignificant things? Or do we often deal with things that are a big deal and instead of taking and trusting it to God we do everything else instead?

What does God want for me? To love Him and love others and to be connected to God and His Church.

4) **Denial** (31-38)

- Abraham had great faith, but then lied about Sarah being his sister.
- Moses was gentle and meek, yet lost his temper, spoke rashly with his lips and was not allowed to enter Canaan.
- Peter was brave, but courage failed him and he denied God three times.

What’s the difference between these and Judas you may ask? They knew God and they turned back to Him.

"As the social cost of claiming to be a Christian increases, the percentage of nominal Christians decreases." ~ D.A. Carson

Prayer Focus:

I would experience God’s love DAILY – praying, scripture and fellowship.

In focusing on God I would put the worldliness, gossip, selfishness, etc. behind me.

I would realize that when I misstep that I need to come directly back to God!