

THE LORD'S SUPPER – OUR PASSOVER

Mark 14:22-26

SUMMARY:

Today we will see how Jesus participates in an event meant to celebrate the greatest deliverance of God's people in the past and transform it into the celebration of an even greater sacrifice He was about to make.

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus and His disciples are participating in the Passover meal.

- It was an annual event to remember the delivery of Israel from their slavery in Egypt.
 - A Passover meal had specific requirements.
 - Eating and drinking prescribed food at prescribed times
 - Reciting set liturgies and scripture.
 - In this meal Jesus is establishing a new Passover to celebrate, which is now known as the Lord's Supper.

BODY:

- Let's try to understand what He is signifying with the elements of His new ritual.

²² As they were eating, He took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body."

- **The first element is the giving and eating of bread.**
- Note what Jesus does.
 - He gives thanks/blesses the bread.
 - Then He breaks it
 - Then He gives it to the disciples.
 - Finally, He refers to it as His body.
- What is the significance of this ritual?
 - The breaking of bread - The bread then reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice.
 - SOMETHING OF INTEREST CONNECTING THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS TO THAT OF THE PASSOVER:
 - In **1 Corinthians 11:24** the KJV speaks of Jesus' "*broken*" body. That is an unfortunate translation only found in KJV/NKJV

- Other scripture emphasizes that His body was not broken.

*³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other one who had been crucified with Him. ³³ When they came to Jesus, they did not break His legs since they saw that He was already dead. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵ He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and He knows He is telling the truth. ³⁶ For these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: **Not one of His bones will be broken.** ³⁷ Also, another Scripture says: **They will look at the one they pierced.***

John 19:32-37

- John assures us that no bones were broken.
- This would fit in well with the analogy of Jesus being the Passover lamb.
 - No bones of the lamb were to be broken

⁴⁶ It is to be eaten in one house. You may not take any of the meat outside the house, and you may not break any of its bones.

Exodus 12:46

- According to **1 Corinthians 5:7** Jesus is our Passover lamb
For Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed.

- Paul makes another application...
 - They each ate of the same loaf... which was one body – Jesus' body

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? ¹⁷ Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, since all of us share the one bread.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

- Each disciple is now united to Jesus and one another through Him.
 - The taking of bread symbolizes union/communion

– **The next element is the cup, or fruit of the vine.**

²³ Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

– Note what Jesus does.

- He again gives thanks,
- Then He gives the cup of wine to the disciples
- The disciples drink, apparently from the same cup.
- He then explains the significance of this element.
 - The cup symbolizes the blood to be shed (or poured out) for the covenant that He is making.

– Jesus’ blood was shed on the cross and that was required of the Passover lamb.

- On the first Passover in Egypt, the Lamb’s blood had to be shed and then spread on the doorposts of the house to save the firstborn son from death.
- In succeeding Passovers, the spreading of blood on the doorposts was not required but the lamb had to shed its blood.
- In Jesus’ day, that blood was poured out on the altar in the temple - as an atonement for those sharing the meal
- The writer of Hebrews helps us understand the great significance of the shedding of blood and the covenant:

¹¹ But Christ has appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come. In the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands (that is, not of this creation), ¹² he entered the most holy place once for all time, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

Hebrews 9:11-12

⁸ First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:8-10

- Jesus has replaced the old covenant made for Israel through Moses with a new covenant that extends to all God’s people who call on the name of Jesus.
- The old covenant was characterized by the law which the Jews were to obey.
 - Offering animal sacrifices continually for their sins!
 - This was the covenant mediated by Moses.

○ Jesus brought a new covenant!

- His shedding of blood redeemed His people from the death sentence of their sins.

It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Hebrews 10:4

- Jesus having shed His blood had fulfilled the demands of the old covenant and now could mediate a new covenant with new conditions.
 - Under the new covenant we are made holy by the blood of Jesus.

• To go back to the Lord’s Supper.

- Jesus gave the bread to His disciples to symbolize His communion with them and their communion with one another.
- He gave the cup to symbolize the new covenant He was establishing for them through the shedding of His blood.

– This last supper – Passover meal of Jesus with His disciples inaugurated what we today celebrate as the Lord’s Supper.

– What is going on when we participate?

- The LS is a time to remember Jesus’ sacrifice for us.
...do this in remembrance of me. Luke 22:19

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

- What are we to remember? Mourn His death or celebrate the results?
 - The typical Christian remembers this way: *“Here is Jesus’ body broken for me and His blood shed for me. Oh, what a terrible sacrifice He made for me, oh what suffering. And how have I repaid Him? Oh, the sins I have committed. I am so unworthy. I feel so bad.”*
 - Let me suggest either alternative or at least something for you to add to your participating in the Lord’s Supper
 - Remember, first of all, that Jesus is always with us.
 - This bread is my body given for you
 - This cup is my blood given for you
 - In these emblems is a participation in a communion with me and one another that unites.
 - In these emblems is the blood of the new covenant that far exceeds the old covenant and gives us forgiveness and eternal hope through the sacrifice of the perfect lamb – Jesus our Passover Lamb
 - In the Passover, the Jews celebrated the deliverance God had made happen from Egyptian slavery and abuse!
 - The Lord’s Supper we celebration the deliverance of Jesus for us from the slavery to sin and death and giving us new life through His blood!
- We need the Lord’s Supper
 - to hear again the comforting and assuring words of our Lord
 - and to see, touch and taste the bread and cup that tells us we still belong,
 - the covenant is still ours,
 - the blood that was shed still cleanses.