

Preparations for the Passover Lamb

Mark 14:1-16

June 1 and June 8, 2014

Introduction

“So they prepared the Passover.”

Mark, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, did not pen this by accident. From **verses 1-16**, Mark gives us a rapid look at the events that occurred before the Crucifixion. What he is aiming for is that everything that has happened before the cross has been prepared by God. God has prepared everything leading to that moment before the foundation of the world. God has decreed that Jesus would be on the cross at 9:00 on Friday morning and die at 3:00 on Passover Friday and be buried before sundown. The cross is the apex of redemptive history. The Old Testament saints look forward to the cross and believe by faith in His promises to redeem them. Today, we look back to the cross and see that God’s promises have been applied to us through Jesus Christ because of His death and resurrection. For the next few months, we are going to look at our Savior’s last days leading to the cross and resurrection.

We might be tempted to think that both the Jews and Romans are the only ones responsible for killing Jesus, but we need to realize that God is the one doing the planning. He is the One that has ordained Jesus to die on the cross. God has ordained Jesus to be the Passover Lamb to take away our sins.

John 1:29 *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

1 Corinthians 5:7 *Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast--as you really are. For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed.*

1 Peter 5:19-20 *but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.*

Revelation 5:12 *In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"*

For this Sunday and the next, we will look at what God has prepared for Jesus to die on the cross.

I. Providence of God (1a)

1 *Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away,*

- God predetermined everything leading to the cross and resurrection
 - God’s set purpose

Acts 2:23 *This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.*

Acts 4:27-28

27 *Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You*

anointed. 28 They did what Your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.

Luke 22:22 *The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed, but woe to that man who betrays Him.*

- Same concept with virgin birth

Galatians 4:4 *But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman,*

- **Passover only two days away**
 - God determined that Jesus would die on 14th day of Nisan at 3:00 pm
 - The enemies did not want Jesus arrested or killed on Passover
 - God overruled them so that Jesus would die at that exact time
 - Summary of time line
- **Substitutionary Atonement**
 - Passover

Note: God has instructed the Jews in Exodus to prepare the lamb before they kill it and place the blood on the doorposts and lintels, so that He can pass over and save His people.

- Jesus was murdered by men and it was 100% unjust since they could not find any fault in Him
- He also suffered in the hands of the Father (His wrath poured out on Him)
- God killed His Son, not for what the Son had done, but for sins that we committed placed on Jesus Christ
 - Why? To secure salvation for us and bring us to heaven
 - If anyone cannot understand this, then one CANNOT be a Christian
- **Father's love gift to the Son**

John 3:35 *The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in His hands.*

- The church is the Father's love gift to the Son
- The Father loves the Son and gives Him the Bride that will worship, adore, and glorify the Son forever
- The Son paid the Bride price through His death
- God the Father was pleased that Jesus be killed

Isaiah 53:10 *Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.*

II. Preparations to Kill Jesus (1-2)

1 *Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill Him. 2 "But not during the Feast," they said, "or the people may riot."*

- **Chief priests and teachers of the law**
 - Sanhedrin—ruling body of 70 men plus High Priest

- Met at High Priest house

Matthew 26:3-5 *Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, 4 and they plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill Him. 5 "But not during the Feast," they said, "or there may be a riot among the people."*

- Looking for some sly way to arrest Him
 - Why?
 - Political reasons

John 11:47-48 *Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this Man performing many miraculous signs. 48 If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."*

- Kill Him
 - They wanted Him dead
 - They have tried to kill Him before but failed many times
- Fear of the people
 - They overestimated the loyalty of the people to Jesus
 - They did not want to kill Him during Passover
 - God overruled them

III. Preparations for Jesus' Burial (3-9)

3 *While He was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on His head. 4* *Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? 5 It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly. 6 "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to Me. 7 The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have Me. 8 She did what she could. She poured perfume on My body beforehand to prepare for My burial. 9 I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."*

- This is a flashback

John 12:1-2 *Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him.*

- Six days before Passover—Saturday

Note: Why does Mark do this? To show the events that leads to the cross. This event was not accidental but planned.

- Simon the leper's home
 - One of ten Simons in NT
 - Obviously this man was healed

- Reclining at the table
 - Dinner time
- A woman
 - Mark does not identify her; however, John does

John 12:2-3 *Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.*

- Mary, sister of Martha and Lazarus
- The perfume
 - Nard—plant from India
 - Very expensive (undiluted in pure form)—300 denarii (1 year's wage on perfume)
- She poured perfume on Jesus' head
 - She broke the jar (for easier pouring)
 - Why?
 - Full of worship and love
 - Very extravagant worship
- Disciples upset
 - Judas Iscariot is the instigator

John 12:4-6 *But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray Him, objected, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." 6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.*

- Some of the disciples followed Judas' lead
- They were probably not aware of Judas' thieving habits
- Principle of Christ
 - Leave her alone
 - What she is doing is far more important than the poor
 - You will have plenty of opportunities to take care of poor
 - Worshipping Jesus is far more important than just doing good for poor
- Preparing for His burial
 - Did Mary understand what she was doing?
 - Possibly
 - Jesus said to the disciples that He will die and three days rise again
 - She is the one that listens intently to what Jesus said
 - She has Lazarus as a living reminder of His power over death
 - What could she do for her Lord?
 - She did this by pouring perfume on Jesus—showing love and worship
- Memory of her

IV. Preparations to Betray Jesus (10-11)

10 *Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. 11 They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand Him over.*

- Judas Iscariot
 - Iscariot—from the village of Keriath (23 miles south of Jerusalem)
 - Only one of the Twelve not from Galilee
- He went to Jesus' enemies
 - He knew of their intent to kill Jesus
 - They were delighted to find such a betrayer
 - They offered him money

Matthew 26:14-15 *Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests **15** and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins.*

- 30 pieces of silver

Exodus 21:32 *If the bull gores a male or female slave, the owner must pay thirty shekels of silver to the master of the slave, and the bull must be stoned.*

- Price of a slave killed by an ox
- He betrayed Jesus
 - He was a thief—materialistic
 - He had eyes only for the kingdom—the glory and the power, not the self-sacrifice
 - Horrific betrayal
 - Judas was with Jesus 24/7 and seen His glory and grace
 - His betrayal is still under God's providence

Genesis 50:20 *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

V. Preparations for the Supper (12-16)

12 *On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Where do You want us to go and make preparations for You to eat the Passover?" **13** So He sent two of His disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. **14** Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is My guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?' **15** He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there." **16** The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.*

- 1st day of Unleavened Bread
 - Thursday sundown
- Lord's plan
 - Unknown location for the enemies
 - Our Lord prevented from anyone knowing where they would meet because then the enemies could have arrested Him privately and without much trouble
 - Our Lord is God—He orchestrated everything to the minutest detail!
 - Preordained plan!
- Two of the disciples
 - Peter and John

Luke 22:8 *Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."*

- Meet a man carrying a jar
 - Unusual sight—women mostly carried the water jars
- Teacher asks
 - Obviously man knew Jesus
 - Follower of Jesus
 - Had previous agreement with Him
- Why the secrecy?
 - Cryptic statements and covert plans
 - Sounds like a spy story
 - Jesus did this so He could spend time with His disciples (**John 13-16**)
 - He also did this to institute the Supper

Conclusion

Our Lord is moving to the cross. People are doing what they are doing, and God directs their paths, so that Jesus could end up on the cross at that exact moment.

Proverbs 19:21 *Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.*