

The Lord's Supper
Mark 14:17-26
June 15, 2014

Introduction

We are now coming to the last night before Jesus' death on the cross. God is orchestrating events so that His Son will die at 3pm on Passover Friday (14th Nisan). Earlier in the day, Jesus sent two disciples to secure the Upper Room, and He does this covertly. He does not want the chief priests to know where He is before He spends His last moments with His disciples, teaching them and preparing them for the last time before His death, so they will be ready when the Spirit comes upon them with power. He also wants to establish the Supper, so that all believers will participate and remember and proclaim the good things our Lord has done. So today, we will focus on the institution of the Lord's Supper, and I want to focus on how it all starts and from what and where it starts. It starts with the Passover..

I. Passover in the Old Covenant

- Exodus Passover

Exodus 12:1-9, 12-13 *The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, 2 "This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. 3 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. 4 If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbor, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. 5 The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. 6 Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. 7 Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. 8 That same night they are to eat the meat roasted over the fire, along with bitter herbs, and bread made without yeast. 9 Do not eat the meat raw or cooked in water, but roast it over the fire—head, legs and inner parts. 12 On that same night, I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. 13 The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.*

- This has been done every year
- God says that this is to be a memorial

Exodus 12:14 *This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD—a lasting ordinance.*

- The main thrust of this memorial is substitution
 - YHWH passed over when He saw the blood
 - Death of an innocent substitute—the lamb
 - Meant that it was a deliverance from divine judgment
 - God required this—even before Exodus
 - Adam and Eve

Genesis 3:21 *The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.*

- This is why God accepted Abel's offering

Genesis 4:2b-5 Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. **3** In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. **4** But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, **5** but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

- Abraham

Genesis 22:9-13 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. **10** Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. **11** But the Angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. **12** "Do not lay a hand on the boy," He said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from Me your son, your only son." **13** Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

- Instead = substitute
- What does this mean?
 - All the substitution were shadows, pictures of the real Substitute
 - All the animal sacrifices point to Jesus as the Passover Lamb
- From Exodus to Jesus' day
 - Passover has been celebrated continuously without stop
 - Millions of lambs slaughtered
 - Then the exact moment, the True and Final Passover Lamb will be slain
 - God Himself offers His Son as the Passover Lamb, the Substitute
 - Only through the sinless Son of God's death was God's wrath satisfied

II. The Last Passover (17-21)

Mark 14:17-21 When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. **18** While they were reclining at the table eating, He said, "I tell you the truth, one of you will betray Me—one who is eating with Me." **19** They were saddened, and one by one they said to Him, "Surely not I?" **20** "It is one of the Twelve," He replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with Me. **21** The Son of Man will go just as it is written about Him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

- Thursday evening
 - During day, Jesus sends Peter and John to prepare for the Passover
 - They are to get the Passover lamb (just 1)
 - Must be sacrificed
 - Evening came
 - Jesus and 10 disciples (and whoever was with them) arrive
 - Long meal—from sundown to midnight
- Jesus must eat this Passover
 - Luke says that He has a strong desire—desire with a desire

Luke 22:15-16 And He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. **16** For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

- Why?

- To end the Old Covenant and start the New
- To fulfill all righteousness
- Important details in the Upper Room
 - We do not know the timeline sequence—this is not important
 - Disciples discuss who is the greatest
 - Washing of the feet
 - Passover meal
 - Satan enters Judas to betray Jesus and he leaves
 - Last Supper
 - Jesus teaches disciples
 - Peter's (and disciples') denial
- Passover Meal
 - We see in the gospels the Passover meal itself
 - Structured around 4 cups
 - 1st cup – Giving of thanks by the host—starts the Passover meal
 - Washing of hands
 - This is probably when Jesus did the foot washing
 - Dipping of herbs in salt water (Bitter herbs)
 - 2nd cup – Prayer and reciting of the first two Psalms – Hallel
 - Dipping of bread and herbs into charoset (fruit/nut paste)
 - Meal
 - Judas leaves here
 - 3rd cup – Cup of Blessing—after the meal
 - This is when the Lord's Supper starts
 - 4th cup – Songs of Praise (Hallel—**Psalms 115-118** and **136**)
 - When the disciples go to the Garden, singing hymns
- The Betrayer
 - One of you
 - Unthinkable betrayal

Psalms 55:12-14 *If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him. 13 But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, 14 with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God.*

Psalms 41:9 *Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.*

- Disciples had no clue
- Judas skillful hypocrite
- Disciples think it was them!
 - Honest and distrust of self
- Human responsibility
 - Judas bears full human responsibility for his act
 - Acted on his own choice
 - Driven by his own motives
 - Controlled by his evil desires
 - God is sovereign and Judas' betrayal is part of His plan
 - God's sovereignty and human responsibility go hand-in-hand
 - Beyond our understanding
 - Judas' punishment is the worst possible punishment

Hebrews 10:29 *How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?*

- Judas leaves

III. Supper in the New Covenant (22-26)

Mark 14:22-26 *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take it; this is My body." 23 Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. 24 "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," He said to them. 25 "I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God." 26 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

- End of the Passover—reason that we do not observe Passover as the Jews
- Jesus institutes the Supper after Judas leaves
 - Why?

1 Corinthians 11:27 *Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.*

- Those who are unworthy are not to partake the Supper
- The Supper is only for His people—those for whom He has died for

John 13:1 *It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He now showed them the full extent of His love.*

- The significance of the Lord's Supper
 - Wine signifies blood
 - Bread signifies body
 - Deliverance of sin through His death
 - Just as the Passover was a memorial, the Lord's Supper is also a memorial
 - The Passover looks forward to Jesus being the Passover Lamb
 - The Lord's Supper looks back to Jesus' finished as Passover Lamb
- The New Covenant
 - God required the shedding of the blood to establish His covenant
 - Blood sacrifice was required for us to enter in covenant relationship with God
 - Required an innocent substitute
 - For the Old Covenant—it was the sacrifices of bulls/goats/lambs every year
 - According to the writer of Hebrews this was never sufficient
 - Christ Jesus is the innocent substitute
 - For one time for all time, His death is sufficient
 - His death pays the price of sin and satisfies the wrath of God
 - Through His death, we have a New Covenant
 - The sealing of the New Covenant is the Holy Spirit whom He has sent to us
 - The Lord's Supper and Jesus telling us the coming of the Holy Spirit are intertwined