

Lesson 3: New Covenant Communion

Central Point: Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT Passover Meal

Let's first look at how a typical Passover meal during Jesus' time would have looked like – **Mt. 26:19; Mk. 14:16; Lk. 22:13**. The manner in which the Passover feast was kept by the Jews of that period differed in many details from that originally prescribed by the rules of Exodus 12.

- Each one would have reclined on couches; their position based on standing
- First a blessing would be spoken for the day and over the wine- each drank from the cup
- A special benediction would be spoken as they washed their hands
- The table was set out with the Passover Lamb, unleavened bread and bitter herbs
- Charoseth dish of sauce of dates, figs, raisins, & vinegar- commemorate Egypt's bondage
 - o Each would dip the bitter herbs in this sauce and ate them
- The dishes were then removed, and a cup of wine again brought out and drank from
 - o At this point, in theory children could ask about what all this meant
- The commemorative words which opened what was strictly the Passover supper
 - o The reciting of **Psalms 113 & 114**
- Then came a second washing of the hands, with a short form of blessing as before
- Gave thanks over the two loaves or cakes of unleavened bread
 - o Then the bread would be dipped with bitter herbs in the Charoseth dish
- After this they ate the meat of the Passover lamb along with the unleavened bread
 - o A third cup, the cup of "Blessing" would then be passed around
- The fourth cup of "Hallel" or of the song, and the recital of **Psalms 115-118** and prayer
- In conclusion a fifth cup, the "Great Hallel" – the singing of **Psalms 120-137**

The Gospel accounts of the Last Supper show how strongly the disciples were impressed with Jesus' words which had given a new meaning to the old familiar traditions. They leave unnoticed all the ceremonies of the Passover, except those which had thus been transferred to the Christian Church and perpetuated in it- simply the bread and wine.

- **Please Read: Luke 22:7-23**
- The bread and wine were memorials of their deliverance from Egypt
 - o Now they represent the body and blood of Jesus- our deliverance from sin
- The old feast of unleavened bread was once a year event
 - o Jesus said *"This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."* **1 Cor. 11:25**
- **Please Read: John 6:47-58**
- **Question:** "What did Jesus mean by eating His flesh and drinking His blood in vs 54?"
- The words, *"This is my body,"* gave to the unleavened bread a new character

- Partaking of the body and blood of Jesus is the closest form of union and fellowship
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 10:14-22**
- Greek word *koinonia*: fellowship, participation, communion, interaction, partnership
- Being born again into God's family through faith in Jesus = becoming one with Him
 - o 1 Cor. 6:17, "He who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit."
- Communion is a real-time, current and intimate exchange with Jesus

John 17:21, "That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

The cup, which was "the New Covenant" in His blood, would remind them, in like manner, of the wonderful prophecy in which the New Covenant had been foretold in **Jeremiah 31:31-34**. The crowning glory was in the promise, "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." His blood was shed, as He told them, "for them and for many," for the remission of sins. What He had been proclaiming throughout His whole ministry, was to seal a New Covenant; foretold through the sprinkling of blood from the time of Moses in **Exodus 24:8**.

- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 11:17-22**
- **Question:** "Why were they not 'Eating of the Lord's Supper' as Paul stated in vs 20?"
- There were divisions and cliques among- going ahead without waiting for anyone else
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**
- **Question:** "What should 'Remembrance' look like as we take communion in vs 20?"
- AMP- "Do this, as often as you drink [it], to call Me [affectionately] to remembrance."
- Remembrance: GR *anamnesis*- reminisce, recall, relive, contemplate & resonate anew
- Communion is a proclamation of the redemptive work of Jesus at Calvary till He comes
- **Please Read: 1 Corinthians 11:27-34**
- **Question:** "What does it mean to recognize the Lord's Body in vs 29?"
- Recognize: GR *diakrino*- discern, dissect, examine thoroughly, reflect and consider
- I believe we discern the Lord's Body in two ways
 - o 1- Accept redemptive physical healing by faith via Jesus' broken Body for us
 - o 2- Walk in love towards the Body of Christ- honor, forgive and speak only life
- Vs 30- is one powerful explanation why Christians get sick and are not getting healed
- When we take communion we are to examine and judge ourselves = repent & forgive
- **Question:** "What does it mean to be judged by the Lord?"
- If living in sin, Satan accuses us before God in order to be granted access to our lives
- God in His mercy will give His people a chance to repent and change their ways
- As a last resort, we're handed over to the enemy if we fail to repent
- **Please Read: Judges 2:14; Ezk. 33:11; 1 Cor. 5:1-5; 1 Tim. 1:19-20; Rev. 2:21-22**