

Matthew 26.17-30

Death Passed Over

Worst PART of Being PASTOR perhaps You Member of ZGC are Good-Byes!

Sometimes – With your Closest Friends – FAREWELL Meals

Today's Text > Final, Instructive, Important Moments between Jesus & Disciples

Jesus and Disciples FEW MOMENTS of Quiet before STORM BREAKS

Quiet Place at Center of Storm that's about to Break > Evil is Afoot

Rulers of People are Plotting the MURDER of Jesus

One of INNER Circle of Jesus – Trusted Treasurer – Planning to hand Him Over

Center Point of these Last Moments is the Institution of the Lord's Supper

Jesus Sovereign God > Calmly OUTWORKING His ETERNAL Plan

### 1. Preparation

v. 17 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

Some QUESTION about EXACT Timing of FINAL Events of Jesus' Life

CLEARLY this Meal INTENDED to be PASSOVER for Jesus and Disciples

Passover was EVENING Meal > 4 Courses / 4 Cups of Wine, lasts 'til Midnight

#### a. Scripture

Jesus THE WORD made FLESH and He OBEYED God's Word PERFECTLY

As Faithful SON of ISRAEL – He and Disciples KEPT the FEASTS

PASSOVER was MOST Important > Remembrance God's REDEMPTION

Observe the month of Abib and *celebrate the Passover of the LORD your God*, because in the month of Abib he brought you out of Egypt by night. Sacrifice as the Passover to the LORD your God an animal from your flock or herd *at the place the LORD will choose as a dwelling for his Name*. Do not eat it with bread made with yeast, but for seven days eat unleavened bread, the bread of affliction, because you left Egypt in haste--so that all the days of your life you may remember the time of your departure from Egypt Deuteronomy 16.1-3

NOW IN Jerusalem > God's NAME Dwelt in His TEMPLE in that City

1<sup>st</sup> C LIVED in Palestine supposed to Celebrate Passover within City Walls of J.

JERUSALEM was PLACE Lord Chose for His NAME to Dwell

LIFE Fully Submitted to WILL of GOD as REVEALED in SCRIPTURE

Jesus BELIEVED & OBEYED Scripture withOUT COMPROMISE or DOUBT

When Christ came into the world, he said:...'Here I am-it is written about me in the scroll - I have come to do your will, O God.' Hebrews 10.5,7

b. Safety > Additional CONCERN – LEADER of Pack has BOUNTY on Head

the chief priests and the elders of the people... plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him Matthew 26.3,4

NOT Wrong use WISDOM & DISCRETION in Ministry > SECRET Gathering

Not AFRAID but NOT TIME, Important Teaching for APOSTLES of Church

REMARKABLE POISE and DIGNITY of Jesus amidst GREAT CRISIS

SECURITY was Concern > ATMOSPHERE was NOT Panic or Desperation

c. Sovereignty MASTER over CITY where He would soon be MURDERED

vs. 18,19 He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

FINDING ROOM > led by God // Finding DONKEY for Palm Sunday

Jesus' Aware of events > Knew Where meal held & how disciples could Arrange

INFLUENCE of Jesus MINISTRY > MANY Unnamed Admirers & Followers

TEACHER has NEED > DISCIPLE puts ALL Things at HIS DISPOSAL

Combination of SUPERNATURAL Knowledge & PRACTICAL Preparation  
 PERHAPS a PRE-ARRANGED SIGNAL for CONTACT amidst DANGER

## 2. Pathos

Like Christmas, New Year's, Easter, and Independence Day --- All at ONCE!  
 Time of Exceeding JOY & Celebration > Remember Saving Mercy & Grace

So may the Lord, our God, and the God of our fathers, cause us to enjoy the feasts that come in peace, glad of heart at the upbuilding of your city and the rejoicing in your service...and we shall thank you with a new song of redemption.

From the Passover Prayer *M.Pesachim*

a. Betrayal > Jesus drops BOMB on their JUBILATION

vs. 20,21 When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."

PREDICTED Earlier > No NAMES Mentioned, No FINGERS Pointed

"When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.' "

Matthew 17.22

THEY're GOOD Guys > Safely behind Locked Doors > BAD World OUTSIDE!  
 ONE of You > Disciples NOT Know WHO > NO SUSPICION it was JUDAS

v. 22 And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another,  
 "Is it I, Lord?"

Disciples AGONIZED: "Is it ME?" > Seek their LORD'S ASSURANCE

v. 23 He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me.

The 12 > INTIMATE, TRUSTED Band of Brothers > RESPECTED LEADERS

Does NOT MENTION JUDAS by NAME

All my enemies whisper together against me; they imagine the worst for me...Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. Psalm 41.7,9

Faithful MASTER KICKED by his own FAITHLESS Disciple

A traitor often hails from one's own household. African proverb

In the person of Judas, our Lord intended to admonish his followers in all ages, not to be discouraged or faint on account of intimate friends proving to be traitors; because the same thing that was experienced by Him who is the Head of the whole Church, must happen to us who are members of it. John Calvin

BEHIND Closed Doors > PROTECTED from ENEMIES Without

But the GREATEST Enemy was WITHIN > his HAND was in the DISH

Judas is the example par excellence of the man who believes that he can never sin his way out of the grace of God. We should remember him if we ever think we can decide the point at which we will stop sinning. Sin deceives as well as hardens...*At first he would not repent; eventually he could not repent.*  
Sinclair Ferguson

b. Blame v. 24a The Son of Man goes as it is written of him,

God PLANNED this HORRIBLE CROSS from BEGINNING of TIME

“*WRITTEN about Him*” God’s ETERNAL DECREE focus on CROSS of Jesus

....the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world Revelation 13.8

v. 24b but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

God PLANNED IT – EXACT DETAIL – AND Judas was PUNISHED

BETTER Never BORN > Judas Realized TOO LATE > Committed SUICIDE  
EYES Opened to TERRIBLE CRIME and DIED in UTTER DESPAIR

Divine design and human accountability come together here. Daniel Bock

HOW Hold Together GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY & MAN'S RESPONSIBILITY?  
Are they NOT CONTRADICTORY? Apparently NOT – BOTH in BIBLE!

Peter BOLDLY Preached the Same THEOLOGICAL TENSION –

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 2.23

The LORD works out everything for his own ends -- even the wicked for a day of disaster.

Proverbs 16.4

### 3. Participation

This NIGHT was NOT like LISTENING to a LONG, Boring, SERMON

Everyone TOOK Part > Drama, Declaration, Drinking, and Dining

PASSOVER Ceremony led by HEAD of Household

Unleavened Bread – Bitter Herbs – Stewed Fruits – Greens – Roast Lamb

Youngest asks “Why, do we eat these foods on this night?”

FATHER would RECOUNT Story of God's GRACE in the EXODUS

#### a. Jesus

Familiar FORMULA in Mark: **Jesus > Taking / Blessing / Breaking / Giving**

FEEDING of the 5000 > ...*taking* the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a *blessing*. Then he *broke* the loaves and *gave* them...

Matthew 14.19

FEEDING of the 4000 > he *took* the seven loaves and the fish, and having given *thanks* he *broke* them and *gave* them Matthew 15.36

NOW for FINAL TIME on EARTH Head of God's Household leads Passover:  
Before Main MEAL was EATEN > UNLEAVENED Bread Passed Around >

“This is the bread of affliction which our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. Let everyone who hungers come and eat; let everyone who is needy come and eat the Passover meal.” Passover Meal Prayer

FATHER gave THANKS for BREAD > Break OFF Piece & Give Each Person  
BREAD NORMALLY eaten in SILENCE > JESUS broke OFF SILENCE

v. 26 Now as they were eating, Jesus *took* bread, and after *blessing* it *broke* it and *gave* it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”

WORDS ‘My BODY’ must have ELECTRIFIED Somber Atmosphere

Takes PASSOVER PARTICIPATION to a Whole NEW LEVEL!

Personal Authority of Jesus: turns Ancient Trad. into Something about Himself  
Even Most Sacred Liturgical rite of Judaism > Transformed and Points to Him  
Passover Meal > Bread of AFFLICTION > Jesus points His Ultimate Suffering  
Unleavened Bread: Deliverance from Egypt > Eternal Deliverance thru Cross

vs. 27,28 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

When MEAL COMPLETED > 3rd Cup of Wine > BLESSED & Passed Around

Purpose of 3<sup>rd</sup> Cup > Praise God for bringing Salvation to His People

Jesus INJECTED New Idea “**Cup of New Covenant sealed in His Blood**”

The fact that he was present with them made it unmistakably clear that these elements were symbols of Jesus himself – they were not magically transformed into something else.  
Sinclair Ferguson

DEFINES his WORK as PROPIATORY Sacrifice for SAVING His PEOPLE

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.  
2 Corinthians 5.21

b. Believer > Jesus gave SELF Totally > We give OurSELVES in Response

1<sup>st</sup> Covenant was CONFIRMED by BLOOD > Sprinkled ON Covenant Members

Moses took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will obey." Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you"  
Exodus 24.7-8

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel...I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people." Jeremiah 31.31-33

PASSOVER ONE YEAR Earlier > Jesus made BOLD INVITATION -

Jesus: "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you...For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him."  
John 6.53-56

Hard Saying > MANY Quit Following Him > 12 REMAINED – Truth in HIM  
Probably Thought “We’re NOT GOING but we do NOT GET what He Means!”

NOW a YEAR LATER > Another Passover > Behind Locked Doors >>

v. 26 Jesus took bread... “Take, eat; this is my body.”

1<sup>st</sup> Covenant was CONFIRMED by BLOOD > Sprinkled ON Covenant Members  
NEW Covenant MEMBERS invited to CONSUME Blood > goes IN Them

vs. 27,28 “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins”

After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge *my righteous servant will justify many*, and he will bear their iniquities. Isaiah 53.11

Many = Those who Believe in Jesus from ALL NATIONS

Jesus: “...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Matthew 20.28

DEFINES his WORK as PROPIATORY Sacrifice for SAVING His PEOPLE

TAKING SUPPER is SYMBOL of RECEIVING NEW Covenant Blessings

Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a *participation in the blood of Christ*? And is not the bread that we break a *participation in the body of Christ*? Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. 1 Corinthians 10.15-17

Three Clarifications about Sacraments:

1) Do not confuse the spiritual blessing with the sign.

A sacrament consists of a visible sign, connected with the thing signified, which is the reality of it. John Calvin

Visible Sign	Thing Signified
Flood Waters of Noah – 1 Peter 3.20,21	Baptism
Rock in the Wilderness – 1 Corinth 10.4	Christ
Dove at Jesus’ Baptism – John 1.32	Holy Spirit
Bread of Last Supper – Matthew 26.26	Presence of God
Wine of Last Supper – Matthew 26.28	Forgiveness of God

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. Psalm 116.13

2) Christ is in Heaven, seek Him there.

He DWELLS in Heavenly Glory > He calls us UPWARD to Himself

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. Colossians 3.1-2

Our COMMUNION is NOT with Man Hanging from Cross > RISEN LORD

The Risen Christ leads his disciples by the hand to the cross, and thence raises them to the hope of the resurrection...so now, since Christ has died and been received into heaven, we ought to be led from the contemplation of the cross to heaven John Calvin

3) Symbol becomes Sacrament only through Faith

TRUE Eating draws us into LIFE of CHRIST and POWER of SPIRIT

v. 27 he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you..."

ALL of You – including JUDAS > Sacrament did NO GOOD for Judas

BLESSING of Sacrament ONLY thru FAITH Alone > Like all Xtian LIFE

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." John 6.51

John 6 Not about Lord's Supper > Not Happened Yet

But the Lord's Supper is About what is Described in John 6

I tell you the truth, he who <i>believes</i> has everlasting life <span style="float: right;">John 6.47</span>
Whoever <i>eats my flesh and drinks my blood</i> has eternal life <span style="float: right;">John 6.54</span>

Believe and you have eaten.

Augustine

*believe in the one he has sent*

John 6.29

He who *comes to me* will never go hungry, and he who *believes in me* will never be thirsty.

John 6.35

everyone who *looks to the Son* and *believes in him* shall have eternal life John 6.40

JESUS refers to SPIRITUAL REALITIES > Not LITERAL FLESH

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

John 6.63

KNOWING JESUS in the FLESH WAS NOT ENOUGH > 1,000's Heard Him  
People SAY Today 'If only I could have SEEN JESUS, I would FOLLOW Him'  
MANY THOUSANDS > NO CLOSER to BELIEVING thru DIRECT Contact

Christ is eaten only by faith.

John Calvin

#### 4. Anticipation

Ceremony ENDED with DRINKING FOURTH Cup of Wine

v. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Afterwards He Look FORWARD to Wedding Supper of Lamb

Every time we have COMMUNION > Sense of INCOMPLETENESS

Look Around WHO is NOT Here > ZGC Members, Family, Lost Friends  
PEOPLE from Many PLACES and TIMES and MILES AWAY > MISSING  
So MANY NOT YET READY to Stand before JUDGEMENT Seat of Christ  
We are RESTLESSLY WAITING until HOUSE is Full, Sheep are Gathered

Jesus: "I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd."

John 10.16

Table for WORLD > Blood Shed for MANY > Yearn for them to COME

GREATEST ABSENCE > Head of Household – Master of Table is MISSING

NO Lord's Supper in HEAVEN > FULFILLED by WEDDING Feast of LAMB

Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready" Revelation 19.6-9

LORD'S SUPPER for CHURCH MILITANT > Watching, Witnessing, Warfare

Every REMEMBRANCE > Back to CROSS – Forward to CONSUMMATION

Christianity is for people exactly like these weak disciples. James Boice

## 5. Proclamation

v. 30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

CUSTOMARY HYMN was SUNG > Passover Ceremony > Psalms 113-118

15 Minute WALK from UPTOWN Jerusalem where TWO-Story Homes were

CAMP among Trees on Mt. of OLIVES > with MANY Other PILGRIMS

Late in the night Jesus and his disciples left the city, perhaps in discrete groups so as not to be conspicuous. They crossed the Kidron valley and began the ascent to the Mount of Olives where the affirmations of the Passover would be tested for their integrity.

William Lane

Gave BODY & BLOOD in SYMBOL, NEXT DAY Symbol became REALITY



Matthew 26.17 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" 18 He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" 19 And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. 20 When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. 21 And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." 22 And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" 23 He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." 25 Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so." 26 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and w after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." 27 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, 28 for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." 30 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Arranged Passover in Home of Unnamed Person inside Walls of City Jerusalem  
 Secrecy of Jesus' Directions was Designed to Prevent a Premature Arrest  
 Jesus knew Judas was looking for his Chance to Hand Him Over to Authorities  
 (Matt. 26:16).

The dating of the meal is a puzzle.

Jesus knew and no doubt planned that he would be crucified at the very time the Passover lambs were being slain, as John indicates, and therefore arranged to eat this meal with his disciples a day early.

Explains why No Mention of the Lamb > Normally Central on Passover Menu

“Surely Not I?”

John Ryle wrote:

Judas Iscariot had the highest possible religious privileges. He was a chosen apostle and companion of Christ; he was an eye-witness of our Lord's miracles and a hearer of his sermons; he lived in the society of the eleven apostles; he was a fellow-laborer with Peter, James and John.... Not one of the eleven seems to have suspected him of hypocrisy. When our Lord said, “One of you shall betray me,” no one said, “Is it Judas?” Yet all this time his heart was never changed.

You can come to church, hear sound preaching, volunteer for Christian work, support Christian causes, even partake of the Lord's Supper, and still perish, if you are not truly born again. And perish Judas did! James Boice

The Last Supper

Jesus would probably be following the ritual for the Passover

Blessing for Bread: “Praise be to you, Yahweh, our God, King of the world, who brings forth bread from the earth.” But suddenly, as he finished the prayer, broke the bread, and began to distribute it around the table, he announced in words that were a sharp break from all that was familiar,

“This is my body” (v. 26) – Most FOUGHT OVER Four Words in Bible

Disciples // Jews > NOT to Eat Flesh with Blood In It

Deut. 12:23–25

Statement “This is my body” > One of Many Such FIGURES of Speech in Bible

“The seven good cows are seven years” (Gen. 41:26)

“You are that head of gold” (Dan. 2:38)

“The field is the world” (Matt. 13:38)

“That rock was Christ” (1 Cor. 10:4)

“The seven lampstands are the seven churches” (Rev. 1:20)

Jesus’ words, “I am the gate for the sheep” (John 10:7);

“I am the true vine” (John 15:1)

1. A vicarious atonement. Jesus died in our place as our substitute, taking our guilt on himself and bearing the punishment for our sins. This was the meaning of the Passover, which was being observed that very week, and it is what is symbolized by the breaking of the bread. As the bread was broken, so would Jesus’ body be broken, but not for himself. It would be broken for those who would trust him as their Savior.

2. A new covenant. Matthew 26:28 is the only verse containing the word covenant in this Gospel. It is an important use of the word and almost certainly a reference to Exodus 24:8, where Moses says, “This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you.” Since Exodus 24 records the establishment of the old covenant, we can hardly miss the contrast between that old covenant and the new covenant that is set in place by Jesus. Matthew and Mark do not use the word new, but Luke does (Luke 22:20), and Paul also preserves the word in his transcription of the words, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me” (1 Cor. 11:25).

Jesus' linking of the old covenant and the new covenant makes clear that his death was the fulfillment and end of the millions of blood sacrifices that had been used to seal and maintain the old covenant. There would be no more need for sacrifices once he had died for our sin. Moreover, although Matthew did not preserve Jesus' use of the word new, Jesus apparently said "new," which means that he was also presenting his death as a fulfillment of the promise recorded in Jeremiah 31:

"The time is coming," declares the LORD,

"when I will make a new covenant

with the house of Israel

and with the house of Judah....

"I will put my law in their minds

and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,

and they will be my people.

No longer will a man teach his neighbor,

or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,'

because they will all know me,

from the least of them to the greatest,"

declares the LORD.

"For I will forgive their wickedness

and will remember their sins no more."

verses 31, 33–34

The old covenant was a gracious covenant, but the people had not been able to keep it. In the new covenant, God's people would be empowered to keep the law, which would be written on their hearts and minds.

3. The forgiveness of sins. The fact that Jesus spoke of the forgiveness of sins is another indication that he was thinking of Jeremiah 31 as well as Exodus 24. But these words make an additional point. To be forgiven by God is our great need, for it is only as our sins are forgiven and we are clothed with the righteousness of

Christ that we can stand before a holy God. It is by the blood of Christ alone that we are cleansed from sin's defilement.

4. Particular redemption. This passage also contains the doctrine of particular redemption. Jesus did not say that his blood would be poured out for everyone for the forgiveness of their sins, but "for many" (v. 28). It was not poured out for Judas, for he was not saved. If Jesus had died for him, he would have been saved, since even the sin of his betrayal would have been cleansed by Christ's blood. Jesus taught in these few words that his death was for his own people only and that it was effective in saving them and only them from their sins. Jesus' blood made an actual atonement for transgressions. His sacrifice actually propitiated God on their behalf. His death secured their justification, and by his stripes they all were truly healed.

Particular redemption means that Christ's death was not for all, but Jesus' words also teach that it was not merely for a few but for many. Many have come. Many more are yet to come. There are many with whom we have yet to share the gospel.

5. Eternal security. Christ's words also teach the truth of eternal security, for he stated as an unchallengeable fact that one day he would drink wine with his disciples ("with you," v. 29) in his Father's kingdom. How could Jesus be sure? Obviously because his death would accomplish their salvation so completely and perfectly that not even Peter's public denial of the Lord would undermine it.

Not very often is Christianity for the strong, the powerful, the rich, the successful, or the self-sufficient, because such people do not often think they need Jesus. Paul noticed this and wrote about it in 1 Corinthians 1:26–29. It is difficult to get self-sufficient people to see their need of Christ and come to him. Christianity is most often for those who are weak, ignorant, and often fail but who know their need, turn from sin, and trust Jesus, just as Peter did.