

Text: Mark 14:12-26 NAU (New American Standard, 1995 Version)



Thursday, April 1 at 11:00 & 7:00

Holy Thursday – 2021

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Countless amazing things could be said about JESUS, but what was the ULTIMATE purpose of His †living, †suffering, and †dying? *To take away the sin of the world!* Why? So that we might ☹be sorry for our sins, ☹trust in Jesus for eternal life, and, *when we leave this world,* ☹be welcomed into heaven!

On this **Holy Thursday 2021**, we focus on some key events that took place in connection with ♣the Passover meal, ♣Jesus' betrayal, and ♣the institution of the Lord's Supper.

1. **The Most Significant Annual Meal:** ¹² **On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed, [Jesus'] disciples said to Him, "Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?"**

// We all have *certain special days* each year:

- a. Christians: Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost.
- b. US citizens: Memorial Day (*for vets who gave all*), 4th of July (*independence*), and Thanksgiving (*to God, the Giver*).
- c. Descendants of Jacob (*who became the nation of Israel*): In the **spring**—Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits,

and Pentecost; in the **fall**—Trumpets, Atonement, and Tabernacles. **Looking back**, the Passover meal recalled God's rescue from Egypt; **looking forward**, the meal pointed to God's ultimate rescue through the Messiah!

2. **Keeping the Location Hidden from Judas**: In response to the question, "Where do You want us to go and prepare for You to eat the Passover?" ¹³ ...[Jesus] sent two of His disciples (Peter and John, Luke 22:8) and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him; ¹⁴ and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"'" ¹⁵ "And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished *and* ready; prepare for us there."
 - a. Jesus could have said, "Go to *this particular address in Jerusalem*, the owner 'will show you a large upper room... prepare for us there.'" But that would have revealed the location to Judas Iscariot. Then Judas could have informed the guards about that location.
 - b. Since Jesus wanted to celebrate the Passover in peace, and still needed to say some very important things to His disciples, he gave some clever instructions to secretly identify the location to Peter and John. Later, and together, they all went to that location.
3. **The Contents of the Meal**: ¹⁶ The disciples went out and came to the city, and found it just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover. // These are some contents of the meal and their meanings:
 - a. The lamb: It was ▶male, ▶without blemish, and ▶killed at twilight *without breaking any of its bones* (Exodus 12:1-11). **Looking back**, God saw the lamb blood and

*spared the firstborn males; looking forward, the Passover lamb pointed to Jesus, the Lamb of God, who has **now** taken away the sin of the world (John 1:29)!*

- b. Unleavened bread: It had no yeast. **Looking back**, they quickly departed from Egypt; **looking forward**, it called for repentance and the removal of sin (1 Cor. 5:7-8)!
- c. Bitter herbs: **Looking back**, they recalled the bitterness of slavery; **looking forward**, they pointed to the bitterness of sin and their need for God's forgiveness!

4. **Announcement and Identification and Woe:**

- a. Announcement: ¹⁷ **When it was evening [Jesus] came with the twelve.** ¹⁸ **As they were reclining at the table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me-- one who is eating with Me."** // They were **so** close for **so** long; they must have been shocked to hear that the betrayer was one of them.
- b. Identification: ¹⁹ **They began to be grieved [saddened] and to say to Him one by one, "Surely not I?"** ²⁰ **And He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who dips with Me in the bowl."** // It seems eleven of them said, "Surely not I, Lord?" But Judas said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" (Mt. 26:22, 25 NAS) – because Jesus was NOT his Lord. Also, it probable that Judas was sitting next to Jesus, and they were both dipping in the same bowl.
- c. Woe: ²¹ **"For the Son of Man is to go just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."** // Life > sin > death > punishment; that is the pattern for all who do not repent, thus for all who die without Jesus☹!

5. **Establishing the Lord's Supper:** ²² While they were eating, He took *some* bread, and after a blessing He broke *it*, and gave *it* to them, and said, "Take *it*; this is My body." ²³ And when He had taken a cup *and* given thanks, He gave *it* to them, and they all drank from it. ²⁴ And He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many." // Sacraments are **mysteries** (they both originate from the same Greek word, μυστήριον); even though we cannot comprehend His body and blood, *Jesus clearly identified them!* We also have **1 Corinthians 10:16** and know that the Greek, ἐστιν means "is" – *NOT symbolizes or represents*, but "is"!
6. **Wine and Hymn and Mount:** ²⁵ "Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God [*thus when Jesus comes again, we will feast and drink with Him*]." ²⁶ After singing a hymn [*Psalm 115-118, and possibly also 120-137*], they went out to the Mount of Olives. // The Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prayed, is located at the foot of the Mount of Olives. After His prayer, He was arrested!

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – The Lord's Supper is *the NT Passover!*
- **Relevance** – When we are repentant (sorry and trusting); *then we desire to be sure of forgiveness (see Mt. 26:26-28)!*
- **Inspiration** – Our sins are powerful to condemn, *but Jesus' finished work is even more powerful to save!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Jesus, from late on Thursday to Friday at 3, You endured MUCH for us; *let remember and be thankful!*

CONNECT WITH US → Website: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
Podcast: Benefit from the Bible | Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230