

STONE HARBOR

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Dear Readers,

What follows is one man's weekly attempt to know the truth of God's Word and bring it to His people for their good and ultimately for His glory. Please regard these only as notes belonging to a busy pastor uploaded as they stand (for better or for worse, complete or incomplete, almost always with grammatical errors, and always with room for refinement in content, structure, presentation...) to support the ongoing study of God's Word. I firmly believe that the community of faith which is the body of Christ can and should bring their gifts to bear for the good of the rest of the body and that any one teacher can be taught by the others with an understanding of the truth. Therefore, should you have insight that would sharpen any of the thinking expressed here, know that I would be pleased to receive it. Clearly, the input that is most welcome and most helpful is that which is more concise than verbose, Biblically grounded and expressed with the goal of displacing misunderstanding and apprehending the truth of God's Word. Your thoughts of that nature are most welcome, certainly appreciated and will be thoughtfully considered. You are invited to send those insights to me at johnny@stoneharborchurch.org.
In pursuit of truth and growing a shepherds heart,
Johnny

Transformation Card

This page provides an overview of the message and resources for individual and group study.

Date: November 1, 2009
 Series: Who Jesus Is & Why He Matters
 Section: Jesus on Mission in Jerusalem
 Topic: The Passion
 Message Title: How Jesus Advances God's Plan of Redemption
 Short Title: Jesus Advances God's Plan
 Text: Mark 14:12-31
 Key Words: Passover, Unleavened Bread, betray, this is My body, this is my blood, fall away, deny

Message Outline

How Jesus Advances God's Plan of Redemption

- I. He Met His Disciples in their **OLD** Familiar Worship **OBSERVANCE**
- II. He Brought them into the **NEW** Covenant Life
- III. He **CONTINUES** to **BRING** Us into the New Covenant Life He Intends

Related Scripture

1. Exodus 12
2. Mat 26:17-35
3. Luke 22:7-34
4. John 13:1-38
5. Zech 13:7
6. 1 Cor 10:23-33
7. Jer 31:31-34

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. What were the feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread originally about?
2. How many times would a thirty year old devout person have celebrated Passover?
3. What new meaning did Jesus bring to the ongoing observance of the Passover by Christians?
4. What did Jesus mean by associating the bread and cup of the Passover with His body and blood?
5. Reflecting on the fact that all of Jesus' disciples would fall away (27) and yet He would continue to demonstrate sacrificial love and acceptance of them, how does that impact you as one so fallen and yet so favored?
6. In what way are you able to let Jesus advance your understanding and appreciation of God's plan of redemption?
7. Based on Mark 14:12-31, what greater clarity does the Holy Spirit have for you in your understanding of who Jesus is and why He matters.

Memory and Meditation Verse

“Take it; this is My body... this is My blood
 Of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”

Jesus From Mark 14:22 and 24 NASB

Exegetical Idea

Jesus observes and redefines the Passover as ultimately fulfilled by the giving of His body and the shedding of His blood which will be accomplished by the betrayal of one of His disciples and accompanied by all of them denying their association with Him; and in bitter sweet contrast to their failures toward Him, He assures them of His ongoing acceptance of them.

Homiletical Idea

Jesus advances God's plan of redemption first by meeting His disciples in their familiar worship observance of the Passover and Unleavened Bread and then by showing Himself to be the fulfillment of the OT Passover thereby bringing them into a new life defined by the new covenant in His blood; He continues to meet us where we are and bring us into this same new and better life secured by a new and better covenant in spite of our betrayal and personal failures even towards Him.

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Goal of Message

That we would be brought into the life with God that He intended.

Community Life

1. Dina
2. Operation Christmas Child

How Jesus Advances God's Plan of Redemption

Introduction

How Jesus Advances God's Plan of Redemption

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How Jesus Advances God's Plan of Redemption

I. He Met His Disciples in their OLD Familiar Worship OBSERVANCE

A. Setting of this Passage

1. Place = Jerusalem

- a) Center of Jewish Religious Life
- b) Site of the Temple & Holy of Holies
- c) Locus of God with His People

2. Time = Spring

3. Event = Passover

- a) 3 x/Yr Jewish Men Would Travel to Jerusalem to Worship Yahweh

B. Passover & Unleavened Bread

1. Exodus 12

- This month shall be the beginning of months for you (12:2)
- Take a lamb (3), an unblemished male...(5) kill it...(6)
- ...take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel... (7)
- ...eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs... (8)
- Read 11-14

2. Purpose of Annual Observance

- Why celebrate the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread? Verses 17, 26-27, and 42 answer: To remember and celebrate God's deliverance of His people from their bondage in Egypt especially that He passed over the houses marked by the blood of an unblemished lamb.

C. He Met Them with Purposeful Arrangement

1. Mark 14:12-15 Speak to Jesus' Pre-Arrangement for Celebration

2. v. 16 Speaks to the Trustworthiness of Jesus' Word

3. Mood of the Celebration

a) Probably an Upbeat Mood of Thankfulness and Expectancy

TRANS. -- It is actually a dear picture of the way things should be. The disciples asking how Jesus wants things done, Jesus out in front preparing for His disciples, the disciples doing what He instructs and finding things just as He said. It was a moment of peace and rightness – a moment that was about to be broken.

4. Horror of Jesus Being Betrayed by One of His Disciples

a) vv. 17 – 21

(1) John's Parallel in John 13:18

- Ps 41:9-10

b) The Impact on the Disciples of Jesus' Prediction of Betrayal

If there was a mood of celebration, it would have been overrun by a heaviness, an indignation -- No this can't be, one of us will betray you? Who is it?

TRANS. With the dark cloud of inside betrayal leading to Jesus' death hanging in the disciples minds the evening meal progressed probably significantly shaken from its normal progression – this was not going to be a typical Passover celebration. Indeed Jesus was advancing the story of redemption. Where He was taking it was rooted in God's past deliverance of His people from bondage in Egypt. But that was only the drawing, the sketch, admittedly the sketch from God's hand and hugely valuable, but a sketch none the less. Jesus was now adding the oil laden colorful textured paint onto the masterpiece that is God's painting of redemption. Let's look at His strokes in verse 22-24...

II. He Brought them into the NEW Covenant Life

A. vv. 22-24

B. Institution of "The Lord's Supper"

1. The Passover
2. The Last Supper
3. The Lord's Supper
4. The Eucharist
5. Communion

C. Explanation of What Jesus Meant

1. Meaning in General

a) Original Passover Symbolism Looked Back...

To the exodus from Egypt that was attended by the sacrifice of an unblemished lamb whose blood saved those it marked from God's judgment. This was a deliverance leading to a formal covenant God made with the people of Israel as mediated by Moses, sealed by the blood of sacrificial bulls. Read Ex 24:7-8

Further this Covenant was accompanied by a fellowship meal between God and His people. Read Ex 24:9-11

b) New Meaning Advanced by Jesus Looked Forward...

To a new deliverance for the people of God this time a deliverance from the bondage of sin made possible by His death as the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This deliverance like the former was connected to a New Covenant God was making with His people.

c) The Significance of Sharing a Meal with Someone in the Ancient Near East

"To share a meal meant to establish or perpetuate a relationship, to become one company with the others at the table." Hurtado (p.235)

d) The Meal/Passover Observance Flowⁱ

(1) Framed by Recitation throughout the observance of the Hallel Psalms (113-118)

(2) Long, closing by midnight***(3) Formal celebration with 4 acts marked by 4 cups of wine based on the 4-fold promise of God in Ex 6:6-7*****(a) Cup 1 – Drunk after the opening prayer**

(i) Food brought In: unleavened bread, bitter herbs, greens, stewed fruit and lamb

(ii) Son: Why is this night different from all other nights?

(iii) Head of House: Retells biblical account of Israel's redemption from Egypt

(iv) Praise given based on Ps 113-115 focusing on God's past and coming redemption.

(b) Cup 2 – Drunk

(i) Head of House: blessed bread. See below for blessing said. Broke bread and handed it out with bitter herbs, and stewed fruit.

(ii) Main meal eaten of roasted lamb

(iii) Head of House: blessed the third cup with a prayer of thanksgiving

(c) Cup 3 – Cup of Redemption (Ex 6:6c), Drunk

(i) Singing of the second part of the Hallel (116-118)

(d) Cup 4 – Cup of Consummation, Drunk, ending the Passover Celebration**2. Meaning of Bread as a Symbol of His Body****a) Meaning of This Bread in Passover*****(1) Seemed to be an Acknowledgment of God as Provider of the bread that sustains their life***

The head of the house would have said a blessing before he broke and handed out the bread like this: “[Praise be to] the Lord our God, Sovereign of the world, who has caused bread to come forth out of the earth.”

b) New Meaning of This Bread in Lord's Supper

(1) Read v. 22

(2) "Take it, this is my body" shattered the normally observed silence. (Land p. 506)

(3) My Body = My Presence

Whenever you celebrate this new meal in the future I will be present with you. It is no longer bread that we see as a provision of life from God, but Jesus Himself.

3. Meaning of Cup a Symbol of His Blood

a) Meaning of the Cup in Passover

(1) This would have been the third cup of Passover meal

"May the All-merciful One make us worthy of the days of the Messiah and of the life of the world to come. He brings the salvation of his king. He shows covenant-faithfulness to his Anointed, to David and to his seed forever. He makes peace in his heavenly places. May he secure peace for us and for all Israel. And say you Amen." ⁱⁱ

b) Meaning of Cup Advanced by Jesus

(1) Read v. 23-24

(2) My blood –

The cup they used to drink thinking of the coming Messiah is now fulfilled in the person of Jesus who is the Messiah. His blood, which looked like and was symbolized by the wine in the cup, was soon to be shed as a result of the betrayal He has been predicting and as the advancement of God's plan of redemption.

Just as the Old Covenant was sealed with blood, so too and ultimately, the New Covenant is to be regarded as sealed by the blood of Jesus.

(3) of the covenant

Just as the Passover was set in the context of deliverance leading to the Old Covenant mediated by Moses, so now Jesus blood soon to be shed would seal a new covenant between God and His people.

(a) OT Witness to the Coming New Covenant

(i) Jer 31:31-34

(4) which is poured out for many**(a) Is 53:12b**

“...yet He Himself bore the sin of many...”

(b) Mark 10:45

“...the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

4. Meaning of Jesus Giving His Body and Blood

In all the details I don't want to miss the obvious, Jesus gave these symbols to His disciples to take into themselves, to eat and drink. They were only symbols but they testified to the reality of Jesus' free gift of Himself to them, that through His death they might have life according to a new covenant relationship with God.

5. Meaning of Disciples Receiving Body and Blood

That Jesus' disciples received the newly redefined elements of the Passover now Lord's Supper speaks of their willing intentional participation in this new covenant with God as mediated by Jesus.

D. Bitter-Sweetness of a Solemn Hopefulness at Meal's End**1. v. 25****2. Solemn**

a) **“Truly I say to you”**

b) **“I will never again drink...”**

c) **He did not take the 4th cup of the Passover meal!**

3. Hopefulness

a) **“until that day”**

(1) Reference to the consummation when He comes again (see Ch. 13)

b) **“when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”**

(1) New is also reference to consummation

(2) Messianic Banquet of Rev 19:6-9

c) Hopeful implication

We will share the completion of this meal (the 4th cup) when I come again to bring to final consummation the restoration of all things, but we will share it together then.

E. The Rest of the Evening

1. They sang a hymn

2. They went out to the Mount of Olives

It Had Been the Place of the Instruction Re: Future (Ch 13). It Now Becomes the Place of Instruction Re: Very Near Future, even what would come upon them before the sun would rise the very next day.

a) Reflection During their Walk from Jerusalem to Mt. of Olives

(1) One of us would betray Jesus

b) Further Instruction

It was not just that one of them would betray Him...

(1) Bad News -- v. 27 "You will all fall away..."

(a) Zech 13:7

(b) Striking down indicated death

(c) Scatter indicated sheep w/o a shepherd

At risk, in danger, now what?

(2) Good News – v. 28

(a) "after I have been raised..." indicating Jesus **resurrection**

(b) "I will go ahead of you to Galilee" indicating their **reunion** with Him

Trans. But Peter did not appear to have been able to give attention to the good news, he was still thinking about the bad – the fact that one of them would betray Jesus.

(3) Worse News Still

(a) Peter's Confident Assertion

(i) v. 29 "...even though all may fall away, yet I will not."

(b) Jesus' Assurance That He Surely Would Fall Away

(i) v. 30 “Truly I say to you, that this very night before a rooster crows twice, you yourself will deny Me three times.”

(c) Peter's Stubborn Insistence on His Faithfulness

(i) v. 31a “...even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!”

(ii) He is in regardless of cost. He is even willing to give his life.

(d) The Disciples Common Insistence on Faithfulness

(i) v. 31b

c) Inescapable Truth of Jesus Instruction

(1) All Would Fall Away!

All would fall away, even “the rock” of all the disciples, Peter.

(2) This Leaves Jesus Alone as the Sole Instrument by which God would Accomplish His Plan of Redemption

(a) No disciple would bring any help to the table

(b) What Jesus was about to do was in spite of His Disciples, not because of them.

(c) Jesus stood alone

(i) Jesus stood alone for His disciples who could not stand with Him

(ii) He stood alone for us

(iii) If there is anyone here who thinks they have something great in and of themselves to bring to the table to stand with Jesus...

(3) We Want to Succeed Where Peter Failed

- We say, well they didn't have the Spirit and they didn't have as good a grip in the Scriptures. Surely I will not fall away, surely I will stand with Jesus and be faithful to Him even if Peter couldn't.
- Well, David had the Holy Spirit and he failed. Paul and the Scriptures and he failed.
- You who would like to come to God approved because of your own merit, you could give it a try, but eventually you'll be forced to admit with Paul, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Ro 3:23)

And with David you will have to throw yourself at Jesus' feet in genuine contrition pleading, "Create in me a clean heart O God..." Psalm 51:10

- We want to stand where Peter and the first disciples all fell, but such is folly. It is folly before you come to faith in Christ and it is folly after. It is only by the work of Jesus apart from us and in spite of us, His redeeming work on the cross for us... that we can stand with Him at all.
- Do not think that makes you a worm! Rather realize that you are the apple of God's eye. It is because of your great worth that Jesus endured the cross and the betrayal and loneliness and judgment that fell on Him for our sins. You are valued above all creation! You alone bear His image and bring Him the joy of intimate relationship. It is not that you are a worm, it is just that you are **not able** to save yourself.
- You are not able to live a good enough life to please Him, and that is not what it is about any way. He wants to redeem you. He wants to be Your Savior. He wants you to be His saved, the child that He adopted, the prodigal who He forgave and welcomed back, the elder brother who accepted His father's invitation to come in to the feast and celebrate the reunion of Father and son and brother.

TRANS. -- As Jesus brought this instruction before His disciples they seemed to have heard only the apparently bad news that they would fail Jesus. But in this time of instruction Jesus had brought the very good news that He was advancing God's plan of redemption to a better place. This better redemption is for us. It cost Jesus' death. But because He was willing to die...

III. He CONTINUES to BRING Us into the New Covenant Life He Intends

A. Out of a Picture – Into the Real Thing

B. Out of a Promise – Into the Fulfillment

C. Out of the Haze – Into Heightened Understanding

1. Of God's Grace in Christ Jesus who Saved Us In Spite of Us

2. Of Our Dependence On Him

It is not what we bring to the table it is what Jesus has already brought in His body and blood.

3. That Dependence on Him Beats Dependence on Us

- He will never fail, we will!
- Our entrance and continuance in His Kingdom is solely and securely in His hands. Halleluiah!

D. Out of the Ho-Hums – Into Heightened Enjoyment of Life in Christ

1. There is more to Christianity than keeping rules

2. There is the intimate relationship between you and God

TRANS. In addition to each of our own individual relationships with God, Jesus is bringing us into the enjoyment of the community of those who believe in Him.

E. Out of Aloneness – Into Community

1. The New Covenant Community

Just as the Old Covenant established the relationship between God and corporate Israel, the New Covenant in Jesus blood establishes the relationship between God and the community of those Jesus has redeemed.

2. Our Commonness

We stand before Jesus in our common need and as common recipients of His redeeming activity.

a) The Body

Paul, of course, explains the church of Jesus as like a human body – all parts are interrelated and add value to the whole. It is easy for us to see that the contribution of each part of the body is significant. I doubt any here would give up too easily an arm or eye or even a toe for that matter.

b) The Bride of Christ

Another image indicating the corporate/community nature of the body of believers is that of a bride. Collectively we are called “the bride” of Christ.

3. Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper in the context of the bride, the body, this community of the redeemed.

a) The Stone Harbor Ladies & Sovereign Grace

They brought back this community focus to the observance of communion

One more instance of Pastor Kit's pursuit of Biblical meaning beyond norms of my Christian culture.

b) As we observe communion today let's let community be a central focus, specifically that we are the community of the redeemed

(1) Jesus Instituted Communion in Community

(a) The Community of His Closest Disciples

(2) Yes, Each individual believer is joined by faith in Jesus Christ to God, but...

(3) Each believer is also joined to each other believer by our common union to God

We are adopted children of the same heavenly father and thus rightly considered brothers and sisters in Christ.

(4) Each of us is an integral part of the same body, the body of Christ

(5) We are corporately the bride of Christ

(6) As we prepare for communion this morning, consider your identity as a disciple of Jesus in community with His other disciples and with Him.

(7) Reflect on the lessons of this passage in Mark

(a) All of Jesus' disciples would fall away, you have the same limitations of fallen humanity as they did

(b) In spite of failings He gave us Himself and shed His blood ratifying a new covenant for us between God and man

(c) We eat this bread and we drink this cup in remembrance of Him and how His blood sealed the new and better covenant that now defines our relationship with God

(d) We, the bride of Christ, will share the final cup of the celebration when Jesus returns. Until that day we proclaim the Lord's death and the new life it has secured for all who respond to His call.

1 Cor 11

Endnotes

ⁱ Notes on Passover liturgy taken from Lane p. 501-502

ⁱⁱ Lane p. 506 citing N. Glatzer's *The Passover Haggadah*.

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