

Message #92**Matthew 26:17-30**

We come to the Passover supper and there two startling revelations are made: 1) One of the 12 disciples will betray Jesus Christ; 2) Jesus reveals His relationship to the New Covenant which is prophesied in the O.T.

JESUS CHRIST REVEALS THAT HE WILL BE BETRAYED, BUT HIS BETRAYAL WILL LEAD TO THE NEW COVENANT IN WHICH PEOPLE MAY HAVE THEIR SINS FORGIVEN.

FACT #1 – The exact place of the Passover is not specifically stated. **26:17-19**

Now carefully notice this passage—the disciples want to know where they should go to prepare the Passover supper. None of the Gospels tells us exactly where they went, except they went to some home in the city of Jerusalem.

More than likely, Jesus selected the home of someone who believed that He was the Jewish Messiah. However, all he told His disciples was to go to the city and tell a certain man that the Teacher says the time is near and He desires to keep the Passover in your house with His disciples. **Verse 19** says the disciples went to the city, did what the Lord said and prepared the meal.

The certain man whose home the Passover was in is not named or identified. More than likely, the reason why is so that Judas cannot figure out where they are going. It is very possible had Judas known the exact location, he would have contacted the religious leaders as the traitor he was and this last supper would not have taken place.

- 1) God does not reveal everything specifically to His disciples at one time. It is a process. As one obeys God through the process, God reveals more and more and does more and more.
- 2) God provides what is necessary to carry out His work when it is needed.
- 3) No one can stop the will of God, not even enemies or traitors.

FACT #2 – Jesus reveals that one of the disciples will betray Him. **26:20-25**

It was evening and Jesus was reclining at the table with His 12 disciples. As they were eating a meal, He made a startling announcement—one of the disciples would betray him (**v. 21**). Jesus had graphically spelled out for His disciples precisely what was going to happen to Him in Jerusalem (20:18-19); He would be condemned to death, mocked, scourged and crucified. But on the third day He would arise from the dead. However, what Jesus reveals here (**v. 21**) is something no disciple ever imagined. Jesus informs that one of His own disciples would betray Him. Now these men have been with Jesus long enough to know when He says something it happens. In fact, by their response, they are not questioning whether or not it will happen, they are questioning which disciple will do it.

The disciples were deeply grieved and one by one they began to say, “Surely not I Lord” (v. 22). Jesus said the one who dips his hand with me in the bowl is the one who will betray me. But “woe” to that one who betrays me for it would have been good had he never been born.

Now carefully notice how Judas responds (v. 25) “surely it is not I, Rabbi.” Notice Judas does not believe Jesus is Divine Lord; he believes he is just a rabbi. Jesus said, “You have said it yourself” (v. 25). In other words, it is you. Now John tells us that immediately upon being identified as the traitor, Judas got up and left the room (John 13:30).

When God is working out His perfect will, He will often use people on the inside who are not right with God to accomplish it. Evil traitors who have no integrity or honesty may still be used by God to accomplish God’s plan. “Woe” to them when they are used this way for they will face the severe judgment of God.

FACT #3 – Jesus institutes the Lord’s supper. **26:26-29**

Judas is gone and while they were still eating, Jesus took some bread, prayed, broke it and gave it to the disciples and said take and eat—this is my body. Now it is a shame that so many religions cannot seem to figure out **verse 26**. Obviously Jesus is there in person, in His physical body, so the broken bread He hands to the disciples they know is not His real body, but it symbolizes His body. The broken body of Jesus Christ would be that which would deliver a sinner. His broken body would be that which could save broken lives. **Verse 27** says that then He took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them and told them to drink because it represented His blood, which would be poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Notice not all have sins forgiven, but many do—those who believe on Him.

Now carefully notice what Jesus says, this is “My blood of the covenant.” The question arises of what covenant? This would be the new covenant, which would replace the Mosaic covenant, which featured animals sacrificed to cover sin. There is a new covenant predicted in Jeremiah 31:31-34 in which the Lord will make a new covenant with Israel and will wash away the nation’s sin. More than likely this is precisely what these Jewish disciples would have thought of when Jesus mentioned the covenant. It would be His shed blood that would forgive sin. The Apostle Paul applied this new covenant to the Church Age (I Cor. 11:25; II Cor. 3:6). It will be the shed blood of Jesus Christ that will ultimately give Israel forgiveness of sin and it is the shed blood of Jesus Christ that gives any sinner the forgiveness of sin. Do you see this? Do you get this? Do you believe this? It is His shed blood that takes away your sin and the only way to have your sins forgiven is by believing on Jesus Christ. Many will believe and many won’t. This is what is so sad.

FACT #4 – Jesus sang a hymn with His disciples and went to the Mount of Olives. **26:30**

The Greek word “hymn” is ὕμνος. The emphasis of this word means that there were no instruments and that this was a very worshipful song addressed to God (Smith, p. 455). Why would Jesus sing about what would happen to Him? Because He knew that this would be the way of salvation. This would open the door for Israel and for Gentiles to have an eternal relationship with God.