



Power In The Blood Mark 14:22-42

Context:

- Day of the week is Thursday.
- Earlier in the day Peter and John were instructed to go ahead and make preparations for Passover (Luke 22:8) - mirrors what Jesus did as he neared Jerusalem and sent for the colt. (Mark 11:1)
- Jesus and the other 10 disciples have arrived.
- Time is most likely shortly after 9pm, which is when the celebration would have normally begun.
- It is less than 18 hours until crucifixion .
- Passover meal has already started, 2 of the 4 cups, halfway through celebration.
- Jesus has already washed his disciples feet in response to them arguing about who was the greatest.
- Judas has already gone to the chief priests to betray Jesus (Matt 26:14-16) and will shortly leave the Upper Room to go tell them where he is so that he can be arrested. (Gethsemane)
- This will be Jesus' last discussion with his disciples before his arrest and crucifixion. (John 13-17 also included)

Mark 14:22-25 And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." 23 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. 24 And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. 25 Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Blood - What's Jesus talking about and why?

Immediately after the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden we see God set the example of sacrificing an animal and shedding blood. Whereas Adam and Eve should have died for their sin, God instead extends grace and covers them through the shed blood of a animal. With Abel we have recorded in the Bible the very first act of worship, and part of that act of worship was the shedding of blood when Abel offered a sacrifice that was pleasing to God. After the Flood, after God poured out his wrath and destroyed wicked mankind, Noah sacrificed some of every clean animal and bird as a burnt offering. And God was so pleased with the aroma of that sacrifice that He promised to never again curse the ground or wipe out every living creature through water, and then He set His bow in the clouds as a sign for that promise.



With Abraham we are introduced to the idea of substitution when God provided a ram in place of his promised son Isaac. With the Exodus, when the Hebrew people are miraculously and powerfully delivered from bondage, we learn that life can only be obtained through the shed blood of an acceptable substitute. In the Sinai, shortly after the Exodus, God not only provides the Law as the foundation of His covenant, but He also established His relationship with His people through the sacrificial blood that was sprinkled on the people (Exodus 24:3-8). Shortly after that God instructs Moses, to “make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst” (Exodus 25:8). When the Temple was built, when God decided it was time for Him to dwell among His people, He required that sacrifices take place on a daily basis. Millions and millions of animals would be sacrificed.

Throughout the OT we’re taught that without the shedding of blood man can **never** gain access to a holy God, that without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness for sin (Heb 9:22) and that without the shedding of blood man can never be restored back into right relationship with God.

Jesus breaks away from 1500 years of Passover tradition and makes it personal when He says that this cup is **MY BLOOD** of the covenant. This has been the mission on His life since birth. Jesus’ parents believed it when they were told by an angel to name their son Jesus, because He would “save his people from their sins” (Matt 1:21). John the Baptist recognized it when he saw Jesus walking towards him, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Jesus certainly understood that there was no other way for God’s people to be reconciled back to God. Jesus knew full well that His own blood needed to be shed, which is why (v.24) He said this is “my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.” Jesus knew His blood needed to be shed in order to satisfy God’s righteous demands for sin.

My Blood of the Covenant - What’s a covenant?

A covenant is an agreement between two parties in which one or both make promises under oath to perform or refrain from certain actions beforehand.

So what does the blood do? It gives us access because it provides a way for forgiveness...covenants establish the relationship.

Ever since the Fall of Adam and Eve, covenants were used by God to establish a relationship between Himself and His people. And what’s remarkable is that He did that



knowing ahead of time that they would fail in that relationship, and knowing ahead of time that it would require grace and sacrifice to restore it.

God has always understood that His people will fail in that relationship, (His disciples are about to fail him twice in the next few verses) yet He still pursues us and makes provision for us through grace and sacrifice in order to reconcile us back to God even in the midst of our sin and rejection.

1 Samuel 12:20-22 And Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. 21 And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. 22 For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself.

Don’t be afraid - what did they have to be afraid of? God’s wrath for their sin.
Lord will not forsake his people - why? His great name’s sake!

In our passage Jesus and His disciples are celebrating the Passover, something God’s people had done for 1500 years. They are celebrating God’s mighty work of redemption, how God rescued them, how He delivered them from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. That is a perfect illustration of our own redemption.

Passover - (overview of the story)

1. What happened to God’s people? physically delivered from external problems
2. What did they learn? the power is in the blood
3. So why the need for millions of animals to be sacrificed (until time of Jesus) - **Did any of those sacrifices really solve anything between them and God?**
4. Limitations of OT sacrifices
 - a. blood of an animal - imperfect, insufficient (which is why there was need for more), temporal benefits
5. Something new was needed because the old system never corrected the root problem with God’s people, the fact that they needed to be spiritually delivered from sin. The old covenants, the old system only provided promises for the future, but it was woefully inadequate to make those promises a reality. That’s why animals had to constantly be sacrificed.

Listen to how Jeremiah describes it.



Jeremiah 31:31-34 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people...34 For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Jeremiah nails it, makes it crystal clear. According to Jeremiah, what do we get with the new covenant? We get a new heart...we get forgiveness, complete forgiveness...we get God.

6. The new covenant that Jesus ushers in not only promises forgiveness of sin, salvation, regeneration, and new life, BUT IT ALSO HAS THE POWER TO FULFILL THEM!

Jesus uses similar language (Luke 22:20) when He states that His blood being poured out **IS THE NEW COVENANT** (and final covenant) because it's finally going to deal with the heart of the problem, man's sinful condition before a holy God.

7. Sufficiency of THE Lamb (Heb 7:26-27)
a. perfect substitute, wholly sufficient, eternal benefits

Hebrews 7:26-27 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

Illustration of garbage can

Mark 14:26-31 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27 And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ 28 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” 29 Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away, I will not.” 30 And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” 31 But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same.

Sung a hymn - select Psalms would be sung at various times throughout Passover celebration, with Psalm 118 being the one that would conclude the evening.



Psalm 118:22-24 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. 23 This is the Lord's doing, It is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Fall away - literally means to be offended by someone or something and thereby run the other direction and into sin.

1. Within a few hours the disciples will be in the crucible of opposition and temptation and will choose to "fall away" in order to avoid the same treatment as Jesus. (act like cowards and traitors)

Why are they going to fall away?

The shepherd, their leader, their Messiah, the one they've been following around for the past 3 years and hung their hopes on, that guy is going to be struck down right in front of their eyes. What happens when the shepherd is dead? The sheep, the flock scatter (Zech 13:7).

1. Jesus is trying to prepare his disciples for tough times ahead - that strong opposition is coming

I can appreciate Peter's prideful enthusiasm, but we're not nearly as strong and capable as we think. Peter had no idea what was really going on.

Luke 22:31-32 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." 33 Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." 34 Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

Even after Jesus tells the disciples that their rejection of him and running away like cowards was even prophesied about AND that IT WAS going to happen, Peter is so brazen and prideful that refuses to believe it...depending instead on his perception of his own strength, that he'll somehow be the exception. Just like Peter, we are much weaker and much more in need than we realize.

Peter's claims are easy to make during times of relative safety, but not so in the crucible of temptation and opposition.



But after I am raised up - Although they're soon going to act like cowards and traitors and reject Jesus so that they can protect their own hides, Jesus provides some comforting words of promise that He will return and restore them and renew His call to them...after the resurrection.

Mark 14:32-42 And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. 34 And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." 35 And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." 37 And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? 38 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." 39 And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. 40 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. 41 And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

Weakness -

1. Hours earlier the disciples were confronted with how weak they were, now in Jesus' greatest time of need for support and encouragement from His disciples they couldn't even stay awake.

Garden -

1. What was the mission for Jesus' life?
 - Ultimately it was for His blood to be shed on the cross to bring about the spiritual deliverance from sin of God's people
2. Who killed Jesus?
 - Was it Judas his disciple who betrayed him?
 - Was it Caiaphas the High Priest who pushed for his death?
 - Was it Herod who ordered his crucifixion?
 - Was it the Romans who carried out his execution and nailed him to the cross?
 - It was God the Father that "pierced and crushed him"

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;



upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Why was he pierced and crushed? So that we could be “at peace” and “healed.” What does it mean to be at peace and be healed? It means that we are no longer at war against God because of sin...that we have been set free, rescued, delivered from the bondage and penalty of sin.

3. So why is Jesus in such agony?

Luke 22:44 “And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”

- because he knows he is about to endure God’s judgment/wrath

Remove this cup from me - What’s Jesus asking for?

1. Is there any other way... (cup of nope)

- cross is where God’s wrath/justice and grace/love beautifully collide
- cross is where he died for sin (pervert, murder, lust, pride, anger, adultery, etc.)

Not what I will, but what You will - complete surrender

***What Adam and Eve lost in the Garden (relationship with God) due to their failure when they were tempted, Jesus restores in the Garden through His obedience and faithfulness in the face of great temptation.