

Foothills Christian Assembly Sermon April 18, 2021
Luke 22: 14 – 16 “The Fervent Desire of Christ”

“And in the daytime He was teaching in the temple, but at night He went out and stayed on the mountain called Olivet. 38 Then early in the morning all the people came to Him in the temple to hear Him.

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called Passover. 2 And the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might kill Him, for they feared the people. 3 Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. 4 So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. 5 And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. 6 So he promised and sought opportunity to betray Him to them in the absence of the multitude.

7 Then came the Day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover must be killed. 8 And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat." 9 So they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare?" 10 And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house which he enters. 11 Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?" ' 12 Then he will show you a large, furnished upper room; there make ready." 13 So they went and found it just as He had said to them, and they prepared the Passover.

14 When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. 15 Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; 16 for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20 Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.

21 But behold, the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the table. 22 And truly the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!" 23 Then they began to question among themselves, which of them it was who would do this thing.”

I. Introduction

- a. We have seen the Lord’s comprehensive sovereignty over the events of the last week before He suffers. From the sovereignty bookends (colt to the water-pitcher man, and every event in between) Christ our Lord goes just as it has been determined. From Sunday’s Jerusalem arrival to the large, furnished upper room, Jesus has been closely inspected by all, remaining unblemished, the Precious Lamb of God. Anointed by Mary for His burial, Jesus has brought heaven’s aroma to the streets of Jerusalem one last time before He suffers. But, first, before He suffers, in the midst of His raging enemies desiring to destroy Him, Christ enjoys this last Passover with His twelve, in this space and time He preserved from attack. A sanctuary in the storm.

- b. Overview of Luke's Last Supper (22:14-38)
 - i. 22:14-20 – the Institution of the Lord's Supper
 - ii. 22:21-23 – “the hand of My betrayer is with Me on the Table”
 - iii. 22:24-28 – the dispute over which disciple is the greatest
 - iv. 22:29,30 – “I bestow upon you a kingdom”
 - v. 22:31-34 – Christ predicts Peter's thrice denial
 - vi. 22:35-38 – Money bags, knapsacks and swords
 - c. Luke 22: 14 – 16 “The Fervent Desire of Christ”
 - i. Setting v14
 - ii. Christ's Fervent Desire v15
 - iii. Christ's Kingdom Meal v16
 - iv. Questions to know, love and obey God
- II. Setting v14
- a. “When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.”
 - b. The hour – the power of Christ
 - i. As we have discussed in prior sermons, it seems most likely “the hour” refers to the beginning hour of Nisan 14, which would be the first hour of the Passover Day, which Luke calls “the day of unleavened bread” (v7). This would be the first of 8 evening meals with unleavened bread. The Passover Lambs were to be sacrificed during daytime Nisan 14. Jesus would be sacrificed during daytime Nisan 14. So, in terms of our modern Gregorian calendar, this last Passover meal was most likely on Wednesday evening, and Christ was crucified on the following day, Thursday. The eating of the Passover meal with the lamb always occurred in the first hours of Nisan 15, evening time.
 - ii. Exodus 12:18 “In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, you shall eat unleavened bread, until the twenty-first day of the month at evening.”
 - c. He sat down – the peace of Christ
 - i. First, Jesus sat down. The rest and joy of the meal begins. His weary body reclines as all attention now turns to the fellowship. The rushing storm rages outside, but here in this sanctuary, Christ rests. The rush of His last week halts. Christ, the Lord of time, before time began, gathered this Last Supper into that special sanctuary of un-rushed time. Christ the eternal Rock sat down in the rushing cascades of time's river, creating this time eddy of undisturbed moments with His twelve. An ark of time. The peace of Christ.
 - ii. Also, another clue this is not the Passover lamb meal on Nisan 15.
 - 1. Ex 12:11 “And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the LORD's Passover.”
 - 2. The seated, reclining posture of rest and safety displays an unrushed flow of time, unlike that commanded in Ex 12:11. The Passover lamb meal was to feel rushed, by commandment.

- d. The twelve apostles with Him – the fellowship with Christ
 - i. They all reclined together. The twelve apostles enter into Christ’s rest, joining Him for the fellowship. But, as we will see, not all are there to rest with Christ, and not all perceive the central necessity of peace and fellowship with Christ as the source of all life, faithfulness, and power. His Kingdom flows forth from peace and fellowship with Him.
- III. Christ’s Fervent Desire v15
 - a. Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer"
 - b. Fervent Desire
 - i. “with fervent desire I have desired”
 - 1. With fervent desire (ἐπιθυμία) - epithymia
 - a. KJV: lust (32x), concupiscence (3x), desire (3x)
 - b. desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden, lust
 - 2. I have desired (ἐπιθυμέω) – epithymeō
 - a. KJV: desire (8x), covet (3x), lust (3x), lust after (1x)
 - b. to have a desire for, long for, to desire
 - c. to lust after, covet
 - d. this is the root word for epithymia
 - ii. It is as if the Greek language cannot fully show forth the intensity and immensity of Christ’s yearning for this time with His twelve.
 - 1. Bock “One can only imagine what Jesus felt during this meal that portrayed the nation’s founding and the “passing over” of Israel’s firstborn, while he prepared to offer himself on behalf of others. Those who had been at his side during his ministry and who were now at the table represented many others for whom Jesus would die. The meal depicts a transition from the end of Jesus’ earthly ministry to the start of his salvific work. John 13:1 expresses the emotion of this moment by saying that Jesus loved them to the end.”¹
 - iii. Was Christ our Lord ashamed to describe His inner double desire to His Twelve?
 - 1. Not at all, and as we experience the flow of Luke’s presentation of the Last Supper, to enter into it as Luke intended, we need to maintain our awareness of Christ’s open declaration of His indescribable yearning.
 - iv. So, from v14,v15, we see the power of Christ, the peace of Christ, the fellowship with Christ, and the declared double yearning.
 - c. To eat this Passover with you
 - i. What is the focus of our Lord’s limitless longing for this time?

¹ Bock, D. L. (1996). [Luke: 9:51–24:53](#) (Vol. 2, pp. 1719–1720). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.

- ii. He desires to eat this Passover with His Twelve. He desires desiring to eat the bread and drink the cup with His Twelve. Here, Christ's desire is satisfied.
 - 1. This is Christ's last meal together with His twelve.
 - 2. This is Christ's last Passover.
 - 3. This is Christ's last Passover with His twelve.
 - 4. This is Christ's last fellowship with Judas.
 - 5. So, the desire Christ expresses in this text is particular to those last moments with those men. In this, we see Christ's focused desire for His Bride includes His focused desire for each person He brings into His peace.
- d. Before I suffer
 - i. As we will see in Gethsemane, Christ did not desire to drink the coming cup of suffering culminating in His crucifixion. Yet, He submitted this desire to the will of His Father, pressing forward.
 - ii. So, this Last Passover is not only imbued with the brightness of Christ's power, peace and yearning for the joy of fellowship with His Twelve, but also with the looming shadow of that infinite cup of woe awaiting Him.
 - iii. 22:19,20 "And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."
 - 1. Christ our Lord will go on in these subsequent verses to bring all the significance of His suffering Body and Blood into this meal with His Twelve. Looking back now, we also understand He was showing forth to them the fulfillment of the Passover, instructing them in how to understand the fulfilled Passover meal eaten when the Kingdom of God comes. He is teaching them how to eat the Kingdom meal with Him in the future.
 - iv. The joy of His fellowship with His Twelve would be with Him throughout His suffering.
 - 1. Henry "He was now about to leave them, but was very desirous to *eat this passover with them before he suffered*, as if the comfort of that would carry him the more cheerfully through his sufferings, and make them the easier to him. Note, Our gospel passover, eaten by faith with Jesus Christ, will be an excellent preparation for sufferings, and trials, and death itself."²

IV. Christ's Kingdom Meal v16

- a. "for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."
- b. Christ's Last Passover

² Henry, M. (1994). [*Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume*](#) (p. 1901). Peabody: Hendrickson.

- i. Christ connects His fervent desire for this last Passover with the fact that He will not eat of it again in that form. The OT form was good and filled with joy, not to be despised. Christ loved to eat that old covenant meal. But, it will be even better in the New Covenant form which showed forth to them during that last Passover.
- c. The Lord's Supper: the Passover fulfilled in the Kingdom of God
 - i. "I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."
 - 1. Similarly, He will say in v18 "V18 "I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes"
 - 2. So, Christ tells His disciples He will continue to eat of the fulfilled version of the Passover in the Kingdom of God. Then He goes on to teach them the words to say during that new meal, and the elements to eat during that meal, showing forth the meaning in that new meal in the Kingdom of God.
 - 3. When will this be? When will Jesus eat this meal in the Kingdom of God?
 - a. 22:28,29,30 "But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (prophecied in Daniel 7:13,14 and 7:18: Ancient of Days gives the Kingdom to the Son of Man, and then the saints of God receive the self-same Kingdom)
 - b. The apostles who continued with Christ in His trials, to whom He is speaking on that night, receive from Christ the Kingdom given to Christ by His Father. And, the first outcome of that bestowal is so that His apostles may eat and drink at Christ's Table in Christ's Kingdom. (Also, His apostles will judge the new covenant Israel, the Church of God. But, first is peace and fellowship with Christ. Righteous rule flows only from experiencing Christ as our endless ocean of peace.)
 - 4. When did the Kingdom of God begin? Will it be set up only at some time in the future with Christ's earthly return to reign for a thousand years? Or, has Christ already been enthroned?
 - 5. Revelation 5 "And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to

open the scroll, or to look at it. 4 So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. 5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." 6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. 8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth." 11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" 13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power [Be] to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!" 14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever." (the fulfillment of Ps 2, Ps 110, Daniel 7, et al)

6. So, the Kingdom of God arrived in its fullness when Christ was enthroned. Prior sermons on the Kingdom have demonstrated that Revelation 5 likely occurred cAD30 when Christ ascended to the Ancient of Days, God the Father. The twelve apostles (re-established with Mathias filling Judas' seat), alive on the earth at that time, received the Kingdom of God and began to eat the New Covenant meal at that time.

- ii. Christ partakes of His Supper at His Table in His Kingdom with His people.

V. Questions to know, love and obey God