

Mark 14:12-26 — "Preparing for the Passover & the Exposing of the Betrayer!"

"One reason why we so little value the ordinance of the Lord's Supper and profit so little by it, may be because we understand so little of the nature of that special communion with Christ which we have there"
(John Owen)

Some of the historical, cultural background in "preparing the passover" (Mark 14:12, 16):

- The **LOCATION** – secure a place within the city walls of Jerusalem.
- The **LAMB** >> The lamb served as the centerpiece of Passover. Israelite families had to purchase a lamb. The lamb had to be unblemished and not more than one year old.
- The **LEAVEN** – Then, they worked hard to remove all of the leaven from the house. The father or other head of the family would lead in the search and removal of leaven.
- The **KILLING** – Later in the day, fathers or other family leaders would take the family's lamb to the temple. Under the supervision of the priests, the family representative would slaughter the lamb and catch the blood in a basin. The priest then tossed the blood at the base of the altar. They would skin the lamb, cook it and prepare it for the Passover dinner.
- The **TIMING** – Preparation also included attention to other details. Items such as jars of water, bitter herbs, unleavened bread, a fruit-and-nuts, and a raw vegetable had to be gathered and prepared. Also, wine had to be secured. In addition, the room had to be arranged with floor cushions so everyone could recline at the table. Timing was critical in the preparation of the Passover meal. The roasted lamb and all of the items had to be prepared by **6:00 p.m.** That's when the family would recline at the table and the meal would begin

Background / Overview of Mark 14

- adoration (v.1-11)
- **commemoration (v.12-21)**
- **substitution (v.22-31)**
- propitiation (v.32-42)
- arrest (v43-52)
- accusations (v53-65)
- denials (v66-72)

THESIS — From this narrative-account, we must observe what happened *in context* but I want to draw from it **3 *pastoral* lessons for us.**

1. Follow Christ Precisely ! (12-16)
2. Denying Christ is Costly! (17-21)
3. Feast with Christ Expectantly! (22-26)

I. FOLLOW CHRIST PRECISELY! (12-16)

- These verses *in context teach* the selection & preparation of the place (v.12-16)
v.13-14 = the MAN carrying water would be EASILY IDENTIFIED — because women did this — NOT men. he would lead them to the house where the ornate had a guest room. It is my suggestion that Jesus had pre-planned this meeting / he had orchestrated it so as to carefully ensure how *and where* he would celebrate Passover.

II. DENYING CHRIST IS COSTLY! (17-21)

- In context, these verses teach the deep sorrow at the place & the exposing of the betrayer (v.17-21)

v.20 teaches the following truths...

- KNOWLEDGE - Christ knew *all along* that Judas, one of the 12, would betray Him.
- TREACHERY - one dipping with the bowl (table fellowship)
- HONORED GUEST - one sitting near Jesus (=the host) who is able to dip/share the bowl with him; Judas had a seat of honor!
- PROPHECY - the Son of Man is to go as it is written of him
- WOE - judgment to that man who betrays the Son of Man
- HOTTEST WRATH - better to have never been born. (apostasy)

v.21 - Woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! This statement...

- a) maintains Judas' guilt
- b) establishes Judas' doom
- c) fulfills God's plans
- d) clarifies Judas' apostasy

III. FEAST WITH CHRIST EXPECTANTLY! (22-26)

- In context, these verses teach the The EATING OF THE PASSOVER & the transformation into the Lord's SUPPER at the place (v.22-26)

Note the following remarks. We should...

- remember Christ's sacrifice
- Remember His Love for us
- reflect on that sacrifice
- embrace Him by faith
- look forward in living hope to his return
- know that Jesus really communes with us
- appropriate Christ by faith and be strengthened

Steven Charnock advised believers to take communion

- (1) **Reverentially** [with sobriety, honor]
- (2) **Purely** [confessing sin; affirming resolve to obey Christ];
- (3) **Believingly** [knowing this is *the Christ-gift* for our nourishment & strengthening]

Child of God, let your heart leap with gratitude b/c...

1. Jesus did this for you — as the Lamb of God who had to *die as the Passover Substitute*.
2. Jesus did this for you — fully understanding what awaited Him, yet he *courageously continued, walking in obedience to His father, to make atonement for *you**.
3. Jesus did this for you — remember that *nothing is hidden from Christ*; no thought, no lust, no heart-motivation, no plan, no desire, no action, no word. He sees it all. > *be holy!*
4. Jesus did this for you — Jesus is passionately eager to *commune with you*—regularly, individually, tenderly. He commands you to take, eat, drink! He shed his blood ratifying the New Covenant which he poured out *for Many!*

Thomas Watson: Contemplating the blessings of the Lord's Supper.

- (1) **The MAGNIFICENCE and ROYALTY of this supper.** It is a heavenly banquet. "The Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines," Isaiah 25:6. Here in this Supper, is the juice of that grape which comes from the true Vine. Under these elements of bread and wine, Christ and all His benefits are exhibited to us. The Lord's Supper is a repository and storehouse of celestial blessings. Behold here, life and peace and salvation set before us! All the sweet delicacies of heaven are served in this feast!
- (2) **To provoke appetite, consider what NEED we have of this spiritual feast.** The angel persuaded Elijah to take a little of the cake and jar of water that he might not faint in his journey. "Arise and eat, because the journey is too great for you," 1 Kings 19:7. So truly we have a great journey—from earth to heaven. Therefore, we need to refresh ourselves along the way. How many sins have we to subdue! How many duties to perform! How many needs to supply! How many graces to strengthen! How many adversaries to conflict with! So that we need refreshment along the way. By feeding upon the body and blood of the Lord in the Supper—we renew our strength as the eagle.
- (3) **Consider CHRIST'S READINESS to dispense divine blessings in this ordinance.** Jesus Christ is not a sealed fountain—but a flowing fountain. It is but our crying—and He gives us food. It is but thirsting—and He opens the conduit. "Let the thirsty ones come—anyone who wants to. Let them come and drink the water of life without charge!" Revelation 22:17. As the clouds have natural proneness to drop down their moisture upon the earth—so does Christ delight to give forth of His gracious virtues and influences, to the hungry soul.
- (4) **There is no danger of EXCESS at this supper.** Other feasts often cause gluttony; it is not so here. The more we take of the Bread of life—the more healthful we are, and the more we come to our spiritual maturity. Fullness here, increases our comforts. In spiritual things there is no extreme. Though a drop of Christ's blood is sweet, yet the more, the better; the more, the sweeter. "Drink abundantly, O beloved!" Song of Solomon 5:1.
- (5) **We do not know how long this feast may last.** While the manna is to be had—let us bring our baskets! God will not always be spreading the Supper-table. If people lose their appetite, He will take the Supper away.

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(6) Feeding upon Christ sacramentally, will be a good preparation to sufferings. The Bread of life—will help us to feed upon the bread of affliction. The cup of blessing—will enable us to drink of the cup of persecution. Christ's blood is a choice wine which strengthens. Therefore, Cyprian tells us, when the primitive Christians were to appear before the cruel tyrants, they were accustomed to receive the Lord's Supper, and then they arose up from the Lord's Supper as lions breathing forth the fire of heavenly courage. Let these considerations be as sauce to sharpen our appetites to the Lord's Supper. God loves to see us feed hungrily upon the Bread of life.

THERE IS A FOUNTAIN FILLED WITH BLOOD

There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from
Emmanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their
guilty stains.
Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their
guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day;
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my
sins away.
Washed all my sins away, washed all my sins away;
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my
sins away.

E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream Thy flowing
wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I
die.
And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I
die.

Then in a nobler, sweeter song, I'll sing Thy power to
save,
When this poor lisping, stammering tongue lies silent
in the grave.
Lies silent in the grave, lies silent in the grave;
When this poor lisping, stammering tongue lies silent
in the grave.

YET NOT I BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me