

From the Passover to the Lord's Supper

Sermon 76 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 26:17-30

Intro:

I. Preparing for the Passover -- Matt 26:17-19

A. A Man Carrying a Water Jug

B. Christ Cares for the Safety of His people

1. Joseph was told to flee to Egypt after the birth of Christ – and when the danger was past – he was told to return to Israel
2. Matthew 10:23 -- *When they persecute you in this city, flee to another.*
3. Matt. 24:16 – 70AD -- *then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains*
4. Christ's example during His three year ministry, withdrawing from the authorities until – His time was at hand. Then he set His face as a flint toward Jerusalem where He willingly fulfilled His mission to give His life for us.

C. My Hour is at Hand – 26:18

“The Covenant of Redemption”

Muller defines the Covenant of Redemption (in Latin -- *pactum salutis*) as “the pretemporal, inter-trinitarian agreement of the Father and the Son concerning the Covenant of Grace and its ratification in and through the work of the Son incarnate.”

1. This presupposes that God is sovereign even over the fall – as our confession teaches in 6:1. This is opposed to the popular sentimentalist idea that God “learned” there would be a fall – and then devised a plan to save men.
2. Before the foundation of the world – before what we know as “time” – The Father and Son agreed that the Second Person of the trinity would leave His eternal glory -- take on human flesh – live a sinless life -- perfectly fulfill God's Law – die the bloody death of the cross to redeem His people from their sin – and rise to never suffer again in eternal glory as the God-Man.
3. This was revealed in time, but there never was a time when the Covenant of Redemption was agreed upon by the Father and Son.
4. The Covenant is as eternal as God Himself is eternal.

II. The Lord's Supper 26:20-30

Fervent Desire Luke 22:15 -- "with *fervent desire* I have **desired** to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."

The Passover would never be the same
The Christian church would never be the same
The Lord's Supper was now instituted
The world would never be the same – as Jesus was willingly going to the cross – as planned in eternity past -- give His life a ransom for many.

III. The Passover and the Lord's Supper

A. Christ our Passover

The Passover is not the Lord's Supper – but there are striking similarities.

1 Cor. 5:7 -- Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our **Passover**, was sacrificed for us.

1 Cor. 5:8 -- Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened *bread* of sincerity and truth.

We no longer observe the Passover – because Christ is our Passover.

Our sin has been purged by the sacrificial death of Christ as the paschal lamb.

As John the Baptist said, "*The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.*"

B. Christ and the Lord's Supper

1. A new and unbloody symbol replaced the old.

2. Taking "this is my body and blood" literally misses the point of the supper.

John 6:51-52 -- I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.

The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us *His* flesh to eat?"

v. 66 -- From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with him no more.

3. The Real Presence of Christ – LBCF 30:7

Worthy receivers, outwardly partaking in the visible elements in this ordinance, do then also inwardly, by faith, really and indeed,... spiritually receive, and feed upon Christ crucified, and all the benefits of His death; the body and blood of Christ being...

spiritually present to the faith of believers in the ordinance, as the elements themselves are to their outward senses.

Hendricksen – Jesus Christ is most certainly and through His Spirit most actively present at this genuine feast. His followers "take" and "eat". They appropriate Christ by means of a living faith and are strengthened in this faith."

Final Applications