

## In Remembrance...Communion

Matthew 26: 26-30

Today we have met for worship and to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Our text reveals the faithful night that Jesus met with His disciples in the Upper Room. His betrayal, arrest, and crucifixion were just a few short hours away. As Jesus shared this final meal with His disciples, He revealed the great sacrifice He would make on behalf of mankind to redeem us from our sin. As they partook of the meal, Jesus instructed them each time they observed the Lord's Supper thereafter, to do so in remembrance of Him.

As we prepare to partake of the Lord's Table in a few moments, I want to examine the [details](#) revealed within these verses while we consider: [In Remembrance...Communion](#).

**I. The Setting** – Our text takes place during the observance of Passover. Jesus had sent two of the disciples to prepare the Upper Room for this observance. Passover had been celebrated by the Jews for centuries, commemorating the faithfulness of God in delivering them from Egyptian bondage. On that faithful night, a lamb was sacrificed and the blood was placed on the doorposts and lintels above the door. As the Lord passed over Egypt, taking all the firstborn, when He saw the blood applied, He would pass-over those houses. The blood covered and protected them.

▪ As the Jews prepared for deliverance in Egypt, they were instructed to prepare a meal consisting of bitter herbs, unleavened bread, and the lamb that was sacrificed. The Passover meal was also known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Jews followed a specific order for the meal.

- They drank a cup of red wine mixed with water, [Luke 22:17](#).
- There was a ceremonial washing of hands which symbolized the need for spiritual and moral cleansing.
- They ate the bitter herbs, which symbolized their bondage in Egypt.
- They drank a second cup of wine, at which time the head of the household explained the meaning of Passover.
- They would then sing the first two of the Hallel Psalms, [Psalms 113-114](#).
- Next, the lamb was brought out, and the head of the household distributed pieces of it with the unleavened bread. The unleavened bread symbolized haste. There was no time to allow the dough to rise before the journey would begin.
- They drank a third cup of wine.
- Then, they would conclude the meal by singing the rest of the Hallel Psalms, [Psalm 115-118](#).<sup>i</sup>

- As the Jews celebrated Passover, remembering the blood that was shed and the lamb that was sacrificed, those present in Jesus' day failed to see Him as the sacrificial Lamb who had come to take away the sin of the world. Their Redeemer and Lord was in their presence, and yet they failed to recognize Him. The Passover pointed to the coming of Christ, but most of them failed to see Jesus as the Christ!

**II. The Sacrifice (26-28)** – As Jesus broke the bread, sharing it with the disciples, and passed the cup for them to drink, He revealed these elements symbolized the great sacrifice He would soon make to provide for their redemption. Jesus would offer Himself as the atoning sacrifice for sin. His body would be offered upon the cross, facing the wrath of God and enduring His righteous judgment in order to pay the debt sin had caused. He would shed His blood on the cross in order to ransom mankind from their sin. In order for atonement to be made, blood had to be shed, and a perfect sacrifice had to be offered. Jesus alone was worthy to become that sacrifice!

- A sacrificial lamb would also be offered on the Day of Atonement to appease the righteousness of God for sin. While this was faithfully observed each year, that lamb never fully atoned. Each year the sacrifice was repeated. The Lamb of God had come, and He would fully and finally appease the righteousness of God as He died in our place, for our sin. [Heb.7:26-27 – For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; \[27\] Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.](#) [Heb.10:4-5 – For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. \[5\] Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me.](#)

**III. The Significance (26-28)** – Jesus declared He would offer Himself for their benefit. He would shed His blood for the remission of sin found within mankind. Although the disciples had walked with the Lord and believed He was the Christ, they stood in need of salvation provided through His atoning work on the cross. Christ had come to save sinners by becoming our substitute, dying in our place, and drinking the cup of God's wrath, so we could escape the judgment we deserved and be reconciled to God. He did not die because He was guilty; He died because He loved us and was committed to providing the only means of salvation. There was no other way – Christ had to die for sin to be atoned.

**IV. The Sovereignty (29)** – [But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.](#) No doubt these men failed to grasp the enormity of this encounter. While they celebrated the Passover, that particular celebration would become unnecessary following the crucifixion and resurrection. The Passover would be replaced

with a celebration of remembrance of His gracious sacrifice and atoning death. A new covenant would be established through His atoning work on the cross.

- Their faith would be greatly challenged in the coming days. The one they followed and believed to be the Christ would die upon the cross and be placed in a borrowed tomb. They would question their faith and wonder if it all had been in vain. Although they probably didn't understand, Jesus made a significant promise in the Upper Room. He would not drink of the fruit of the vine until He drank of it again in the Father's kingdom. In essence He declared death would not hold Him. He would rise again triumphant from the grave, ascend back to His Father, and intercede on our behalf. He would make preparation to receive all of the saved into His presence when He comes again for the church. Jesus revealed there would be another celebration yet future, where the saved by grace enjoy the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. All of the saved will see our risen, living Lord face to face, and we will spend eternity with Him!

**Conclusion:** This is a somber and reverent time as we remember the great sacrifice Christ made on our behalf. It is also a time for celebration. Christ was willing to die in our place to secure our salvation. We have the promise of eternal life in Him. As we partake of the Lord's Supper, we can do so with faith and rejoicing.

Paul revealed that we must examine ourselves prior to partaking of this celebration of remembrance. If there is known sin in your life, you need to deal with that prior to partaking today. If you are unsaved, I urge you to respond to the Lord's gracious offer of salvation. He paid the debt you owed, dying in your place. You can be forgiven of sin and reconciled to God through His precious gift!

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<sup>i</sup> The Sermon Notebook - The Sermon Notebook – Mark.