

JESUS GAVE THE LORD'S SUPPER TO HIS CHURCH

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Jesus
AND HIS CHURCH



Luke 22:14-23

- **Q.** Have you ever thought, “Why do we take the Lord’s Supper?” The Church as a whole has been observing the Lord’s Supper for nearly 2,000 years. Why such a long-standing tradition? Here’s why!

1. THE PASSOVER MEAL (Exodus 12)

LUKE 22:14-15 14 And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him (*the hour appropriate for eating the Passover meal*). 15 And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

- **Jesus was the presider at this Passover meal with his Apostles.** It was instituted by the LORD to remember & celebrate the greatest event in salvation history up to this point—when God redeemed His people in Egypt!
- **More than 1,400 before the time of Jesus...** 1) Slavery, 2) Plagues, 3) Final Plague of God’s Justice, 4) No one was exempt, 5) God’s provision, 6) By faith, take shelter under the blood of the Lamb. You were saved only on the basis of faith in a substitutionary sacrifice. This is how God delivered his people out of the land of slavery. *This was the biggest event in human history, known as the Exodus.* 1,400 years...
- **The Jews ate the Passover meal in a specific way.** There were *four cups of wine, bitter herbs, unleavened bread*, and a *Passover lamb*. 4 MAIN PARTS at which the presider, holding a cup of wine, got up and would answer questions. **THE THIRD CUP came near the very end**—the presider would stand and explain everything about the Passover meal. **He would take the bread and say**, “This is the bread of our affliction, that our forefathers ate in the wilderness.”
- **The only thing close to this would be the Fourth of July**, that we celebrate in the United States. We’ve been celebrating that a few hundred years. Imagine if someone tried to change it’s meaning? Also imagine if the 4th were about miraculously being freed!
- **If we don’t understand what NORMALLY happened at the Passover Meal**, we won’t understand the significance of why Jesus “earnestly desired” to eat this and how, in addition, He **ABANDONED** the script completely.
- **I think part of the reason Jesus “earnestly desired to eat this Passover”** with them before He suffered was because it would also include a *PROMISE* to have another meal with His people once He makes all things new! He literally said, “*With desire I have desired*” showing how serious He is about what He is about to teach them!

2. THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB (Revelation 19:6-9)

LUKE 22:16-18 16 For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” 17 And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. 18 For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

- **Jesus is using covenant language here:** It’s like when we say, “I’m going to get this done if it kills me!”
- **Q.** What is He promising to bring about?
- **In Revelation 19, Jesus shows the apostle John what will happen in the end**, when Jesus ushers in the Kingdom of God in it’s fullness. After a those who have been Redeem by Jesus sing a song of praise, an angel with John says, “And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’”
- **Jesus is promising not to take part in a celebratory feast until He has rid his creation of sin, sadness, injustice, and suffering.** And that includes people—all who’s faith is in Him and what He’s done!
- **HEAR ME: The Gospel is NOT about our commitment to Jesus;** from beginning to end, the gospel—the good news of Christianity—is about **JESUS’ commitment to us!**
- **LISTEN TO THIS PROMISE IN ISAIAH 25:6-8** 6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. 7 And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

3. THE LORD'S SUPPER (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

LUKE 22:19-20 19 And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

- **Q. Can you imagine what the Apostles there were thinking** when Jesus said that?
- **Jesus doesn't say, "This is the bread of our affliction." As Keller points out, He's saying, "This is the bread of MY affliction."** I'm going to be broken for your sin like you should be broken so that you can be made whole."

20 And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

- **Jesus is saying, "My blood is going to be spilled as your should be spilled and it will establish a *new* covenant between you and God."**
- **Jesus is announcing** that that as a result of his sacrifice for us as our substitute, there is now a new covenant between us & God. The basis of this positive relationship is Jesus' broken body & spilled blood—*nothing else*.
- **He's not simply having one final meeting with his friends;** He's instituting a whole new meal to be eaten in remembrance of His death in our place! At the same time He's replacing the Passover Meal with the Lord's Supper because Passover was ultimately just a shadow of Jesus & how He would come and Redeem His people!
- **Jesus is the better Moses, leading His people out of a worse slavery, to a better promised land, through becoming the greater Passover Lamb slain in the place of sinners.**
- **Q. Do you long for a day when injustice will die?** When your own faults and failures will be put away? When you will no longer be so selfish? When you will think what you should and do what you should?
- **Q. Do you long for a day when the foundations of all your deepest desires will be fulfilled?** When you will have joy beyond the walls of the world? When you will live in perfect love and harmony?
- **The one who will end injustice & sadness & suffering is Jesus;** the one who will satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart is Jesus. And only through faith in Him will you be a part of that & be satisfied in His presence.
- **He's who the Passover was about; He's who the Lord's Supper is about; He's the one that is going to usher in the world we all want. He will make the wrong things right, & you will be satisfied in Him—He's who you're built for.**
- **But...**

4. WHY WAS THIS ALL NECESSARY? (Genesis 3:1-7)

LUKE 22:21-23 21 But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. 22 For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" 23 And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this. (*explain then proclaim*)

- **We're meant to see how unbelievable *FRAIL* the disciples commitment to Jesus is—and see ourselves.** This should lead us to abandon all self-righteousness & admit we're just as capable of betraying Jesus as Judas; this should lead us to abandon all confidence in the our merits & admit we're just as sinful! **Q. DO YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE?!**
- **The only way we're going to get the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in the Kingdom of God** is if we trust what the Passover was about and what the Lord's Supper remembers. **Q. Why?** Because we are all complicit in the very first meal recorded in History. Adam and Eve ate a meal in defiant rebellion to God, and we been complicit in it ever since, rebellion against Him in a million different ways. (would you have done different?)
- **THE FIRST MEAL IN THE BIBLE** is about man being in rebellion against God and having a death-filled, sorrow-bringing meal with Satan;
- **THE FINAL MEAL IN THE BIBLE** is about man being fully redeemed to God and having a life-filled, joy-giving meal with Jesus.
- **All because of His body being broken for us, His blood shed for us.**