

Bible Stories for Adults

The Lord's Supper

Luke 22:7-20

Opening

- Gathering: Why is it important for Christians to share the Lord's Supper regularly?
- Today's Focus: Jesus revealed Himself as the atoning Passover lamb and instituted the Lord's Supper for us to remember and participate in His suffering and death for our sakes.
- Key Verses: *This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. ... This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you.* Luke 22:19-20
- For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.* 1 Corinthians 11:26

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Jesus' Last Week = Summarize on board

- Why did Jesus wait until the last minute before going to Jerusalem for His last Passover?
John 11:53-57 = There was a warrant out for His arrest
- When did He finally show up in the Jerusalem metropolitan area? = Bethany was a suburb
John 12:1-2 = Six days before the Passover, on Friday - Visited friends M, M & L
Note: Jews had to stay within Jerusalem during the festival, suburb villages counted
- What did Jesus do the next day?
Leviticus 23:3 = It was the Sabbath, He rested - No mention in any Gospel
- What happened Sunday? = He went to Jerusalem
Mark 11:7-10 = Palm Sunday, The Triumphal Entry of the King
- Did He clear the temple when He arrived in Jerusalem that afternoon? = Cursed fig tree, taught
Mark 11:11-12, 15, 17 = No, He returned to Bethany, He cleared the temple on Monday
- What did He do the rest of the days before Passover (Thursday evening)? = In temple early in morning
Luke 21:37-38 = Spent days teaching in temple, evenings on Mount, slept in Bethany
- What happened to Jesus between late Thursday night and by mid-afternoon on Friday?
Mark 14:46; 15:1, 25, 33-34, 37 = Arrested (night), tried (6a), crucified (9a), died (3p)
- How do we know this all happened on Friday (Jewish days began at 6:00 pm)?
Mark 15:42-43 = Needed to get Jesus' body buried before Sabbath at 6:00 pm Friday
- What did Jesus do on Saturday while His body laid dead in the tomb? = No decay (Acts 13:37)
1 Peter 3:18-19 = He descended into hell and proclaimed His victory - Apostles' Creed
- What happened on Sunday?
Mark 16:1, 6 = He rose on Easter morning

Paschal Preparations (*Mark 14:12*)

- What Jewish festival had Jesus come to celebrate His last time in Jerusalem? = 8 days together
Leviticus 23:5-6 = Passover (twilight, Nisan 14) followed by 7-day Feast of Unleavened Bread
- What had to be done on Thursday before the Passover began at 6:00 pm?
Mark 14:12 = Preparations had to be made for the feast
- Who did Jesus send to make the important preparations?
Luke 22:8 = Peter and John - The others stayed with Jesus
- Paschal* means *Of the Passover* - *Pasch* comes from Hebrew *pesach* which means Passover

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The Place (Mark 14:13-16)

The Passover meal could only be eaten inside Jerusalem or not at all

With so many pilgrims, anyone who had an extra room had to provide it free

Had Jesus made any arrangements to make sure they had a place? = Secret from Jews

Matthew 26:17-18 = Yes, He sent Peter and John to go to a certain man

How would Peter and John know where to find this man? = Men had leather water bags

Mark 14:13-15 = Follow a man carrying a water jug - Only women carried jugs

Two-story houses were only found in the affluent Upper City (upwind of city sewage)

Second floors were large open rooms, smaller than first floor; Used for storage and guests

Upper rooms were accessed only by outside stairs, kept main floor private

Did Peter and John find the man and the fully furnished room just as Jesus said?

Mark 14:16 = Yes, they *found everything as He had told them*

Preparing for the Passover Seder (Exodus 12)

What was the first task in preparing for a Passover seder? = *seder* is Hebrew for *service*

Exodus 12:15 = A ceremonial search and destroying of all yeast (leaven)

After gathering items for the feast, what important task was done that afternoon?

Exodus 12:3-7 = Buy and personally slaughter a year-old lamb in the temple

Why was it important that at least ten people be present and that the lamb was properly sized?

Exodus 12:8-10 = It all had to be eaten or destroyed, no left-overs

Around 250,000 lambs were slaughtered in temple forecourts between 3:00 and 6:00

Horn blast announced the start - Jesus died at 3:00 as first Pascal lamb sacrificed

Priests chanted *Hallel* (Psalms 113-118) = *Hallel – Praise, Hallelujah – Praise Yahweh*

Priests caught blood from slit necks and poured at the foot of the altar

Lambs were skinned and gutted by priests, fat and inners were burned on altar

Rest carried home in skin and roasted over fire on pomegranate spit - head, legs, tail, ...

The Passover Seder - Before the Meal

1. *Cup of the Kiddush (sanctification)* = Separated this meal from all other common meals
Head of family prayed over the cup, then all drank = Red wine mixed 3:2 with water
What was the significance of the four cups of wine scattered throughout the Passover feast?
Exodus 6:6-7 = Four cups represented four promises - Add to board
Sanctification = Separated from unholy world - *I will bring you out*
Thanksgiving = Freed from slavery - *I will free you from being slaves*
Redemption = Atonement and blessing - *I will redeem you*
Completion = *I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God*
Fifth cup sometimes poured for Elijah (Malachi 4:5-6) - Never drank
2. *First hand washing* = leader had to ceremonially wash his hands three times
3. *Parsley* = Represented hyssop that smeared blood on door frames
dipped into salt water and eaten = Salt water was tears of slaves in Egypt and Red Sea
4. *Breaking of bread* = Blessings were made over three circles of unleavened bread
Middle circle of bread was broken and a little eaten = Slaves only had broken crusts
5. *Story related* = Youngest asked why this day was special, leader told whole story of Israel
Exodus 12:26-27 = Parents are to explain the ceremony to their asking children
6. *Hallel Part 1* = Psalms 113 and 114 were sung; first verses memorized by a Jewish boy
Leader chanted a verse and the rest replied with *Hallelujah (Praise the Lord God)*

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The Passover Seder - The Meal

7. *Cup of Haggadah (explaining, proclaiming)* = Second Cup
8. *Second Hand Washing* = Everyone would ceremonially wash their hands
9. *Grace* = A blessing was said and small pieces of bread were distributed
10. *Sop* = Bitter herbs were placed between bread and dipped into Charosheth and eaten
Bitter herbs (horse radish, chicory, endive, lettuce, horehound) = Bitterness of slavery
Charosheth (apples, dates, pomegranates, nuts, cinnamon sticks) = Clay bricks and straw
11. *Meal* = The whole lamb was eaten with bread, herbs, Charosheth; left-overs destroyed
12. *Third Hand Washing*
13. *Bread* = Remainder of unleavened bread was eaten
14. *Cup of Redemption* = Third Cup, With prayer of Thanksgiving for what God has done
Fifth cup poured (but not drunk) and door opened for return of Elijah
15. *Hallel Part 2* = Psalms 115-118 were sung
16. *Final Cup* = Fourth Cup
17. *The Great Hallel* = Psalm 136 was sung and two short prayers were said

Jesus' Last Supper (Mark 14:17-21)

When did Jesus and His disciples show up at the Upper Room?

Mark 14:17 = Not till evening, before official 6:00 start time (silver trumpets blew)

Was Jesus trying to put off what He knew would be His last meal?

Luke 22:14-16 = No, He had eagerly looked forward to it

Early Passovers were eaten standing as escaping slaves, Changed to reclining on couches as free men

Exodus 12:11 = Standing was posture of eating in haste ready to leave

What inconceivable news did Jesus have during the meal? = Still worst treachery in Middle East

Mark 14:18 = Sharing a meal was a sign of intimacy, Betrayal was unheard of

Did the disciples suspect He was talking about Judas?

Mark 14:19 = Each thought it might be them

How did Jesus indicate who this betrayer was and at what point of the Paschal Seder?

Mark 14:20-21 = *One who dips bread into the bowl with Me* - During sop or meal

What Old Testament prophecy did this fulfill? = Jesus quoted in John 13:18

Psalm 41:9 = *my close friend...who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me*

How did the disciples find out who Jesus was talking about?

John 13:22-30 = Jesus confirmed to Judas it was him, others didn't realize what was going on

The Eucharist (Mark 14:22-26)

What did Jesus do at Point 13 of the Seder and why is it sometimes called the Eucharist?

Mark 14:22 = He gave thanks (*Eucharist* - Greek for *to give thanks*) and gave it as His body

What else did Jesus include in this Sacrament He was instituting?

Mark 14:23-25 = Gave thanks and gave the cup (3rd or 4th) as His blood

What final part of the Seder do we see?

Mark 14:26 = They sang the Great Hallel

What is a sacrament? (From Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation)

A sacred act

Instituted by God Himself

In which there are certain *visible means* connected with His Word

By which God offers, gives and seals unto us the *forgiveness of sins*
which Christ has earned for us.

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The Sacrament of the Altar (*Mark 14:25*) = Ask class and add to board

What are some other names we have for this sacrament?

1 Corinthians 11:20-22 = *The Lord's Supper*

1 Corinthians 10:21 = *The Lord's Table*

1 Corinthians 10:16-17 (KJV) = KJV calls it *communion* (NIV - *participation*)

Acts 2:42 = *Breaking of bread*

1 Corinthians 11:24 = *Eucharist* (gave thanks)

Where do we get the Words of Institution that Pastor says before we share Holy Communion?

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 = Paul's account of what happened

Are the bread and wine changed into the body and blood of Christ?

1 Corinthians 11:28 = No, the bread stays bread and the wine stays wine

So why do we say the Christ's body and blood are *in, with and under* the bread and wine?

Matthew 26:26-28 = *This is My body ... This is My blood* - Real Presence

How does Paul describe this mystery?

1 Corinthians 10:16 = cup is *participation in the blood*, bread is *participation in the body*

Does it matter whether we recognize the real presence of Christ or if we feel it is just symbolic?

1 Corinthians 11:27-29 = Whoever takes without recognizing body and blood is judged

Besides protecting others from judgment, why do some Lutherans practice closed communion?

Romans 16:17 = Keep away from those contrary to the teachings you've learned

Besides remembering what Jesus did, what do we look forward to when we share His Meal?

Matthew 26:29 = *That day when I drink it anew with you in My Father's Kingdom*

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How often do I participate with other Christians in celebrating the Lord's Supper?
(*Acts 2:42, 46; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25; Hebrews 10:25*)
2. When I share the Lord's Supper with other Christians, do I recognize the unity of the fellowship?
(*Matthew 5:23-24; John 13:18-30; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:17-22; Romans 16:17*)
3. Do I recall Jesus' sacrifice for me when I partake of the Lord's Supper?
(*1 Corinthians 10:21; 11:23-26; Hebrews 10:1-24*)
4. Do I recognize the true presence of Jesus' body and blood in, with and through the bread and wine?
(*Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:27-29; Hebrews 9:20-22*)
5. What does the Lord's Supper really mean to me?
(*Mark 14:22-25; 1 Corinthians 11:28; 2 Corinthians 13:5*)