



**July 19, 2020**  
**Luke 22:7-20**

### **SCRIPTURE**

<sup>7</sup> Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

<sup>9</sup> "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

<sup>10</sup> He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, <sup>11</sup> and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>12</sup> He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."

<sup>13</sup> They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

<sup>14</sup> When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

<sup>17</sup> After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

<sup>19</sup> And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

<sup>20</sup> In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

## **COMMENTARY**

**22:7.** All leaven, or yeast, was excluded from Jewish households from the beginning of the week of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. In that sense, the day when the Passover lamb was sacrificed was called the Day of Unleavened Bread. The lambs were sacrificed from mid-afternoon to late afternoon in the court of the priests at the temple complex. This was on Thursday of Passion Week.

**22:8-12.** The effect of Jesus’ words here is the same as when He sent two disciples for the donkey on which He rode during the triumphal entry. God had the details worked out in advance. A man carrying a water jug would have been a strange sight since that chore was typically performed by women. Many homes in Jerusalem had an upstairs guest room with an outside entrance which could be rented to pilgrims observing a feast in the city. The wording suggests that the owner of this room knew Jesus or was even a disciple.

**22:14.** The Passover meal began at sundown. Participants reclined on their sides on low couches, leaning over the low table to eat.

**22:15-18.** By saying that He fervently desired to eat this Passover with His disciples before suffering, Jesus encouraged them to interpret the following events in light of Passover imagery. The cup here could have been the first or second cup of the traditional Jewish Passover ritual.

**22:19.** To institute a new memorial meal (the Lord’s Supper), Jesus chose the unleavened bread of the Passover meal to represent His physical body, which would be broken on the cross much as bread was broken during the meal. His death would be offered (given for you) as a substitute for sinners, all of whom deserve to die for their sins.

**22:20.** The new memorial meal also lent fresh meaning to the cup after supper (probably the third of four cups in the Passover ritual). The cup was reinterpreted to refer to the blood of Christ, shed as a payment for sins by Jesus, the ultimate Lamb of God (Jn 1:29). The mention of the new covenant related to Christ’s shed blood means that the prophesied new covenant (Jer 31:31-34) would be ratified by Jesus’ death on the cross.

## **MAIN POINT**

Jesus’ last supper with His disciples signified His role as the Passover Lamb.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.*

**Where is your favorite place to go for a celebratory meal? What do you enjoy about that place?**

**Why do you think meals are so often a part of our celebrations in life?**

**When you think of Scripture, what memorable meals come to mind?**

Meals are often more than just meals. They signify relationship and community with others. They celebrate victories and can comfort us on difficult days. These moments at the table communicate something and connect us to one another in a way that other activities do not. So, it's no surprise that on the night before His death, Jesus chose to explain the significance of His suffering and death with a meal.

## **UNDERSTANDING**

*Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.*

- ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ LUKE 22:7-13.

**Why was secrecy needed as this meal was planned? What risk was involved?**

**Read Exodus 12:1-14. What significance did the Passover meal already have for the disciples?**

The Passover meal served as a reminder of God's deliverance, love, and power. That deliverance, love, and power came at great cost—when God delivered His people out of Egypt, every firstborn person and animal in Egypt died. There wasn't a house without someone dead, except for the homes of the Hebrews whom God passed over and then rescued (cf. Exodus 12:24-28). What Jesus' disciples didn't yet understand about this particular Passover meal, though, was the greater meaning that He was about to explain and then fulfill by His death on the cross.

**What thoughts and emotions do you think these Jewish disciples of Jesus had as they made preparations for the annual Passover meal?**

- ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ LUKE 22:14-20.

**What new significance did Jesus give to the bread?**

**What new significance did He give to the cup?**

**As the disciples observed and listened to Jesus at the first Lord's Supper, what do you think might have been going through their minds?**

**How much do you think they understood when Jesus spoke about His body and blood?**

Jesus took the Passover meal and demonstrated to His disciples how the promises of God's covenant with His people are fulfilled in Him. In breaking the bread and declaring that it was His body, and in holding up the cup and declaring that it was His blood, He proclaimed His identity as the ultimate Passover Lamb.

Jesus not only pointed back to the Old Covenant, but He also pointed forward to the New Covenant. Moses (see Deut. 30:6) and Jeremiah (see Jer. 31:33) had spoken of a day to come in which a process of transformation would take place in the hearts of God's people. The Old Covenant celebrated the work God did for His people, but the New Covenant celebrated His work in them.

**Why is the Lord's Supper an essential part of Christian practice today?**

The Passover meal served as a reminder of God's deliverance, love, and power. Jesus used this significant time to teach about Himself and foreshadow His death on the cross. Adding to what would have already been an incredibly heavy moment, Jesus also told them that one of them would betray Him.

## **APPLICATION**

*Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.*

**How important in your life is the regular observance of the Lord's Supper? Why?**

**What preparations do you need to make to celebrate the Lord's Supper?**

**What do we risk if we practice the observance of the Lord's Supper without preparation or with little thought?**

**What are some reasons the Lord's Supper loses its significance in a church?**

**How can we help each other guard against taking the Lord's Supper too lightly?**

## **PRAYER**

Thank Jesus for His service and sacrifice to pay the consequence for our sins. Thank Him for the privilege of remembering His sacrifice together as the body of Christ through the practice of the Lord's Supper. Ask Him to continue to work in our church so that He will be glorified.