

## **The Cup of Redemption**

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Following Jesus Together / Mark 14:12–26

# **INTRODUCTION**

## **WELCOME**

- Good Morning CrossPointe
- Release the Kids

## **REVIEW**

- Turn with me to Mark 14:12 on the bottom of page 86
- Continue in our study through the Gospel Mark
- We are currently moving toward the end of Jesus' final week before he is crucified.

## **TRANSITION**

- To fully understand the events that are unfolding... it is helpful to have some cultural background.
- If you've ever lived in a someone else's culture - you know that it is more than just language that is different.
- (SITTING) Palestine - it mattered how I sat - sometime I sit with one leg resting on the other knee but this was disrespectful, because I was showing them the bottom of my foot.
- (EXCHANGING MONEY) - In Chad you would only use your right hand for money and food because you used your left hand to clean unclean areas.
- (TIME) Even time itself is viewed differently. Imagine you were invited over to someone's house for dinner. I was taught that if you aren't 10 minutes early you are late. I still believe this. However, this could get me into trouble because in various other cultures if you show up early then you are too anxious to eat their food and its disrespectful.
- We have to become students when we step into a new culture and the same is true for us this morning as we step into this passage.

- There is a history and cultural nuance taking place that is unfamiliar to us but if we will pause and see the world through their eyes - it is like an old faded black and white photos transitioning into brilliant color.
- Kirsten and I had the privilege of living in Israel for almost 4 years. There is a beauty and depth to God's words when we read and understand it in its cultural context.

## PRAY

# GOD HAS A PLAN

• **“AND ON THE FIRST DAY OF UNLEAVENED BREAD, WHEN THEY SACRIFICED THE PASSOVER LAMB...”**

• **WHEN DOES A DAY BEGIN? WHEN DOES IT END? (Black boxes of days)**

- For us, Sunday evening will be tonight from 6pm-Midnight, Monday begins at midnight (early morning). This is how we see tell time and days.
- For Jews, Monday wouldn't begin at midnight tonight. Monday would begin at 6:53 pm tonight, when the sun sets, and you could see the first three stars in the night sky.
- Sunset marks the end of the day and therefore the beginning of the next day.

## • DAYS & CELEBRATIONS

- God gave specifics instructions for the Passover and there was a traditional order for the whole celebration.
- We talked about the origin behind the passover last week - if you missed that message I would encourage you to go back and listen.
- Exodus 12:2-3 ““This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household.” Ex 12:5 “Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. ”

• **THINK ABOUT THIS FOR A MOMENT AS WE PUT JESUS' FINAL**

## WEEK TOGETHER

- **[10]** On Sunday the 10th of Nisan, Jews would be selecting the passover lamb
- Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem riding a prophecy as people shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed in the coming Kingdom of our father David. Hosanna in the highest!”
- The Lamb is Chosen
- **[11-13]** Ex 12:6 “Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the 14th day.” (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)
- The lamb would be at your house, as you knew it would be sacrifice. Cared and nurtured.
- Jesus was at the temple, his Father’s house, teaching, confronting and correcting the falsehoods of the religious leaders - pointing all peoples to himself as the one promised by God.
- On Tuesday, Nisan 12, Jesus left the temple mount - never to return
- On the 13, the religious, while commanded to care for the passover lamb, planned the murder of Jesus.
- On the 13th, Wednesday, Judas betrayed Jesus, by offering to turn him over to the religious leaders in exchange for \$300. He then returned to Jesus and the disciples.
- By candle light between that Wednesday and Thursday (13-14) you would search your home for leaven and remove all of it from your house and you wouldn’t eat leaven for the next 7 days and a reminder that God was faithful to remove the Jews from slavery. The irony of Judas removing the leaven from the house while the darkness of sin consumed his treacherous heart.
- **[14]** Now it was Thursday, the 14th of Nisan,
- At Twilight the Lambs would be slaughtered
- On the 14, that Thursday, during the first Passover, the blood from the lambs was painted on the 2 doorposts and the top.
- Ex 12:8-9 “They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted, its head with its legs and its inner parts.”
- The reason - boiling the meat would break the bones and not a bone was to be broken. (every detail matters and will come back

later)

- **GOD HAS A PLAN - “WHERE WILL YOU HAVE US GO AND PREPARE FOR YOU TO EAT THE PASSOVER?”**

- Jesus and the disciples were staying in Bethany but the Passover meal had to be eaten inside the walls of Jerusalem.
- Mark 14:13-16 “And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us.” And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.”

- THE DISCIPLES HAD A QUESTION, JESUS HAD A PLAN

- The disciples didn’t know what was going to happen or how things were going to come together.
- Jesus had things worked out - we don’t know if he already made arrangements or if this was supernatural - but regardless - Jesus had a plan.

- WE HAVE OUE QUESTIONS, JESUS HAS A PLAN

- This struck me this week.
- I was talking with a friend whose life is being upended right now. Things aren’t going as expected and the future has more questions than answers.
- This passage came to mind - though my friend doesn’t know what the future holds:
  - Jesus, where will we live...
  - What are we going to do...
  - Eph 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

## **JUDAS IS CALLED OUT**

- **SOME NON-CHRISTIANS HAVE TRIED TO SAY THAT JESUS WAS JUST A GOOD MAN CUAGHT UP IN A SERIES OF EVENTS THAT LED**

## TO HIS UNINTENDED DEATH

- Nothing could be further from the truth
- Jesus knew he was going to die - he predicted his death 3 times - when Mary anointed him the night before he said it was to prepare his body for burial.
- Some people would seek to make Jesus a victim and martyr.
- Jesus is the Lamb of God. our Savior, who voluntarily laid down his life for you.
- This was not a series of unfortunate events
- This was the loving and intentional plan of God
- JUDAS HAD A PLAN FOR BETRAYAL, JESUS HAD A PLAN TO BE A BLESSING
- One of you will betray be
- Yep, one of the 12
- The other disciples seem to be asking, “Who, me?”
- Judas asks, “Is it I Rabbi?” (Matt 26:25)
- Jesus says, “You have said so. “The one who is dipping bread into the dish with me.
- Final condemnation, Mark 14:21 “For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.””

## THE BREAD AND THE CUP

- **“AND AS THEY WERE EATING...”**
- Importance
- The night of passover is unlike any other night of the year.
- This is the first and last time Jesus led his disciples through a passover celebration
- This was a NIGHT OF REMEMBRANCE - When God made them free from bondage.
- The Gospel of Mark tells us, “while they were eating...”
- This is such a loaded statement. This was not just any meal. This was the Passover meal, also known as the Seder, which literally means ‘order.’

- There were specific foods prepared in a specific way.
- Specific prayers are recited and Specific scriptures are read.
- There is a tradition and a process. This is what Jesus is celebrating with the disciples.
- Jesus is about to take this central celebration in the Jewish community and radically transform the whole thing.
- But to understand what Jesus changes, it is helpful for us to understand what came before.

- **SETTING THE SCENE**

- Food
- Bitter Herbs
- Vinegar
- Roasted Lamb
- Unleavened Bread
- **Four Different Cups of Wine (2/3 watered down in case you think it was just a drunken feast)**

- It is these last 2 elements, the bread and wine, that Jesus is going to transform
- These 4 cups of wine mark transition points through the order of service on this night of remembrance.
- **Each cup has a name and each cup is connected** to Exodus 6:6-7, also known as the “I will passage” because it records what God is going to do. Not Moses, not the nation of Israel. What God and God alone is going to do.

- **#1 THE CUP OF SANCTIFICATION**

- Exodus 6:6 “Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens...’”
- At the start of the meal, Jesus would have raised the cup of sanctification and said, “Blessed are you, Jehovah our God, who created the fruit of the vine.”
- God is removing the nation of Israel completely from their bondage in Egypt. They are moved from an empire of slavery and into a Kingdom of Freedom.
- By the will of God, a people have been set apart and given a purpose for the glory of God.
- We don’t drink this cup as part of the Lord’s Table today but it still holds significance.

- We too, have been transferred from the Kingdom of darkness and moved into the Kingdom of light by the mercy of God.
- We've also been given a purpose to offer our lives as a living sacrifice for the glory of God.

### • **WASHING OF HANDS**

- It was between cups two and three when the Head of the Ceremony, Jesus, would rise to wash the hands of everyone in attendance.
- It's here that John's Gospel tells us how Jesus washed the feet of all the disciples, including Judas, who would soon betray him.

### • **THE BITTER HERBS**

- Next comes the Karpas, when you dip the bitter herbs in salt water.
- The bitter reminder of fallen tears over years of misery.
- Sometimes we want to cover over deep sorrows with temporary emotions of pleasure - but God led his people in lament and remembrance because it is here that we taste the sweetness of God's provision.
- **CONFESSION** - This is why I believe that Apostle Paul rightly calls us to "examine themselves" before taking the Lord's Table.

### • **THE BREAD**

- There were normally three pieces of matzah bread together - you would take the middle piece and break it., "This is the bread of misery which our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. All that are hungry, come and eat. All that are needy, come, keep the Passover."
- One half would be wrapped in a hidden cloth to bring back at the end in remembering God's provision of the Passover over. The other piece would be eaten with the bitter herbs in remembrance of their bondage and brokenness.
- It is here - that the disciples must have been caught completely off guard.
- Normally, nothing more is said here, no prayer, no scripture.
- One Jewish resource said, "For we recognize that, like the broken matzah, we are incomplete, with prayers yet to be fulfilled, promised still to be redeemed."
- I was a moment of longing and reflection.

- Jesus held up the bread, gave thanks but broke the script and said, “This is my body, which is for you, Do this in remembrance of me.”
- Jesus is about to consume our misery, our sin. The bitterness that was ours belongs to Jesus and in return he extends the sweet mercy of God.
- This is my body, broken for you. All that are hungry come and eat. All that are need, come. Jesus is sufficient to carry your sin.
- Redemption is here. The other part isn’t hidden away. Jesus is the Lamb of God.

## • #2 THE CUP OF DELIVERANCE

- Exodus 6:6 “Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and **I will deliver you from slavery** to them”
- For 400 years, the nation of Israel we’re help captive in Egypt with worse and worse conditions. Vulnerable and powerless to change their circumstances. Generation came and went - only knowing the injustice of slavery. Their lives spent, building a strong kingdom not their own, that continued to hold them down.
- Then God says, “I will deliver you...” When you are unable to save yourself.
- As Christians, we don’t celebrate this cup either, but it continues to hold a special place in our heart.
- Held in the bondage of sin, we are unable to save ourselves
- We need a rescuer, and deliverer
- At the Lord’s Table we proclaim that Jesus is our deliverer.

## • #3 THE CUP OF REDEMPTION

- At the close of the meal,
- Exodus 6:6 “ and *I will redeem you* with an outstretched arm and great acts of judgement.”
- Israel
- God is going to redeem Israel. He is going to take back what is rightfully his.
- All of Scripture is about God taking back what is rightfully his
- 
- Us
- This is the cup we take during the Lord’s Supper, during Communion. It is the cup of redemption.



- Jesus not only institutes a new Passover celebration in the Lord's Supper, he also establishes a New Covenant.
- In the past, people were delivered and redeemed by God through his provision of a sacrificial lamb as their substitute.
- Year after year - was it enough
- From the night of the Lord's Supper onward, Jesus established a new covenant in his blood. He is final and only sacrifice needed forever more. Jesus is the sacrificial lamb that is our substitute.
- If you trust on Jesus, applying his blood to the doorpost of your heart - seeking shelter from God's judgement in God's provision - you will be saved.
- So Jesus hold up the cup and says, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many."

- EPHESIANS 1:7-10 "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."
- I feel like this verse brings us back full circle this morning.
- In Jesus, we have redemption through Jesus' death and resurrection
- All this was part of God's plan

#### • **#4 THE CUP OF PRAISE**

- Exodus 6:7 "I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians."
- By the blood of the lamb, we are no longer strangers or enemies of God, we are children of God.
- We are not just tolerated, we are accepted because of Jesus has done.
- In the Gospel of John, at some point around the fourth cup, Jesus says, John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."
- In the Gospel of Matthew 26:29 "I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my

Father's kingdom.””

- The fourth cup seems to remain - unfinished - waiting for the moment when Jesus returns and once again, Jesus hosts the ultimate heavenly banquet feast recorded in
- Isaiah 25:6-9 “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. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. 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. It will be said on that day, “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.””

## APPLICATION

**1 Corinthians 11:26** “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

## COMMUNION

Across peoples and cultures. The Lord’s Table is not just a Jewish celebration - it is a celebration for everyone who has placed their faith and trust in Jesus.

- BREAD
- Bitter Herbs replaced by sweet remembrance - that in Jesus’ body, he bore the penalty of our sin.
- His body was broken
- CUP

## CUPS & APPLICATION

- DRINK THE CUP OF SANCTIFICATION - God has cleansed us and called to be the light of the world
- DRINK THE CUP OF PRAISE - because God has delivered us from sin and we are free to live for his glory
- DRINK THE CUP OF REDEMPTION - remembering and proclaiming the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus
- DRINK THE CUP OF ACCEPTANCE - living no longer as slaves, but as

sons and daughters of God most high.