

The Betrayal and the Last Supper

Luke 22: 1-22

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death for they feared the people.

Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. And they were glad and agreed to give him money. So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on the which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." They said to him, "where will you have us prepare it?" He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

And when the hour came, he reclined at the table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "take this, and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 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."

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!"

This passage deals with Judas's betrayal and the Passover meal that turns into the 1st Lord's supper. I spoke on the Passover and the Lord's supper in the summer. Therefore, I will not spend as much time on the Passover/ Lord's supper portion of this passage. However, I will discuss more about the Religious Leaders and their role in Christ's death, Judas's role in the death of Jesus and the sovereignty of God over Jesus's life.

The first thing discussed here is the fact the chief priests and scribes were seeking how to kill Jesus.

The Chief Priest and Sadducees were angry that he was breaking up the political and economic system of the day. The theologians were angry that he was committing blasphemy by claiming

to be God. The problem was that He was showing power over nature, demons and forgiving sins. As CS Lewis put it, Jesus was either the Lord, liar or lunatic. The religious leaders knew he wasn't a liar or a lunatic because of the way He taught and His perfect demeanor, and they couldn't call Him Lord due to their unbelief. Thus, as Mark 3:22 records, they had claimed He was empowered by Beezebul (aka Satan).

To apprehend Jesus carefully and to hasten His death, they needed to do so without creating a mob scene. Because it was the Passover, there would have been a million or more people in Jerusalem. Many people were following Jesus and He had healed many hundreds, if not thousands of individuals in addition to driving out demons from countless more. We saw the crowd when Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey's colt in Luke 19. The people were waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David." He was claiming to be God's Son and proving it with His miracles. What a terrible time for the religious leaders arrest someone for blasphemy!

But the religious leader got their chance. Luke records that Satan entered into Judas Iscariot and he sought out the religious leaders to see what he could be paid to hand Jesus over to them. When Satan enters Judas in verse 3, all restraint Judas would have had was gone and he would do the unthinkable. Judas had spent 3 years with Jesus watching him heal, cast out demons and teach like no one ever taught.

Judas brings up an important question. Is it possible for a Christian to be demon-possessed or for Satan to enter into a Christian? The answer to that question is a resounding no. If the Holy Spirit resides in one of Jesus's adopted sons or daughters, no demon can reside in that house. However, it is possible for a church member, someone who mingles with Christians, or even someone involved in the ministry to be inhabited by demons or Satan. A non-believer is at risk of such control, and churches are full of non-believers. Let's not forget what Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23 about so-called church people:

²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' ²³ And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

If a person is going to stand on the sidelines and listen to the gospel being preached while they do nothing about it, the day may come when Satan or one of his demons may move in to the vacant house as Jesus talks about in Luke 11:24-26.

Judas was the odd man out among the 12. He was the only one of the 12 from the southern Judea. He was the only one from that far South—an outsider—and wouldn't have known any of the other 12. The fishermen from Galilee like Peter and Andrew would likely have been acquainted with each other. Judas was from Kerioth, and thus the name, Judas Iscariot or Judas from Kerioth. God incarnate was before Judas day in and day out. But Judas wasn't saved and he was

looking for a way out of this group. He was realizing that Jesus wasn't going to become an earthly king now and thus, Judas would have no important position in the court. Jesus wasn't going to throw off the Romans and reign in Jerusalem. Jesus was talking about dying all the time and showing mercy and extending forgiveness. So, Judas was done. But first he wanted compensated.

According to Matthew's gospel, the Chief Priest Caiaphas was meeting with other priests at his house and Judas walks in saying essentially "How much is it worth to you if I tell you where Jesus is in the middle of the night?" It was Judas who sought them out, not the other way around. The gospel of Matthew records that he was paid 30 pieces of silver for this betrayal. 30 pieces of silver was equivalent to 120 denarii or 120 days wages. 4 months of work. Exodus 21:32 states that 30 pieces of silver is the price of a slave. Interesting, the price of a slave. Christ is called the slave of God according to Isaiah 53.

That's what Jesus was worth to Judas.

The Old Testament prophesies that the Messiah would be betrayed by someone who knew Him very well:

Psalm 41:9-

Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

John 13:8 states that the Psalm refers to Judas

Zechariah 11:12, 13-

Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver.

Matthew 27:9-10 states that this prophecy is fulfilled in Judas

Psalm 55:12-14- refers to Judas as well

For it is not an enemy who taunts me—then I could bear it; it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me—then I could hide from him. But it is you, a man, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend. We used to take sweet counsel together within God's house we walked in the throng.

Judas's betrayal was all part of the plan. However, this doesn't remove Judas's culpability. We read in Luke 22:22:

For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!"

This was exactly what the religious leaders wanted. Chapter 21 of Luke says that Jesus went to the Mount of Olives at night where it would have been very dark. They needed to know where he was in the cover of night to be able to apprehend him. They couldn't search an entire hillside covered with olive trees at night without either coming up empty or causing a huge scene.

According to John 11:49-53, the chief priest and the Pharisees gathered to figure out what to do with Jesus:

⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

How true that statement was! Caiaphas unwittingly uttered a prophecy. He didn't believe this statement in the way we do, but God uses this unbelieving Priest to prophesy about His Messiah.

We can't assume because of this betrayal, the chief priests' desires, and Pilate's ultimate acquiescence to this travesty of justice that Satan controlled this event. We know that Jesus laid His life down at the exact moment that the Father intended for it to happen. Jesus said in John 10, "No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of my own accord."

In fact, the religious leaders were planning on waiting until the multitude left Jerusalem after the Passover was over to apprehend Jesus. They wanted to wait until he could be captured alone without a crowd—they hoped to get him in secret. Judas was likely planning for a perfect time as well and was biding his time. But, in God's sovereignty, Jesus forced the issue, and essentially told Judas to act quickly. The gospel of John, chapter 13, verse 27 records the interaction at the Last Supper in this way:

As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him. So Jesus told him, "What you are about to do, do quickly."

Jesus came into the world in the fullness of time according to Galatians 4:4 (which means at the precisely perfect time) and he said in John 5 and John 8 essentially, "I only do what the Father wills Me to do. I only say what the Father wants to say." And in the same manner, He died according to God's perfect timing. He is called the "lamb slain from before the foundation of the word."

Satan would have wanted to prevent the death of Christ. So why would he enter into Judas to speed up the death of Christ? Perhaps, he thought what the religious leaders thought, and assumed the crowd would stop the leaders from crucifying Christ.

Satan is powerful, cunning and intelligent, but He's not omniscient. Perhaps he thought that the crowd would stop the crucifixion. Maybe he didn't see how quickly the crowd that welcomed Jesus in on Palm Sunday would turn on Him by Friday.

We see throughout the gospels that Satan was tempting everyone in this divine drama from Christ on down.

First, Satan tempted Jesus in the garden and failed. Jesus said in Luke 22:42,

"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done."

Satan fails.

When Jesus tells the disciples that he was going to be betrayed and die in Matthew 16:21-23 we read:

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

So, here we see Jesus call Peter Satan for implying that he was not to die. He calls Peter a conspirator with the devil if he would imply that Jesus would not go to the cross.

We also see Satan tempt Peter during the arrest to pull his sword and attack one of the soldiers from Matthew 26:

⁵¹ And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant^[a] of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?"

Finally, we see Satan tempt Peter to deny Jesus after He was captured and arrested from later in Luke 22:

³¹ "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." ³³ Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." ³⁴ Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

Satan tempts Peter 3 times in an attempt to get Him fall away and become a destructive force that may derail the whole plan. Perhaps Satan was thinking that Peter's fall would drag the other disciples away too and cause Jesus to avoid the cross.

But again, Satan fails because Peter was restored and led the early church under the power of the Holy Spirit.

So Satan has the religious leaders and Judas in his back pocket, he is trying to get Peter to fall dramatically, and He's pressing everything on Jesus to avoid the cross. He is trying to stir up a perfect storm.

But, God is in control, and Jesus is to die on Friday.

But first, the Passover meal was part of God's plan for His Son.

Jesus sent Peter and John to prepare the Passover meal. He hid the details from the other 10. Why did He do that?

It was critical that he accomplish what we wanted to do on this evening prior to his death the next day. He couldn't have a crowd form outside the room or a group of Jewish leaders and soldiers capture Him before He had this meal. And Judas couldn't know about it—Judas would have assumed that this upper room would have been the perfect place to have him arrested. So, Peter and John went to prepare and found a man carrying a jar of water. This would have been odd and thus obvious to Peter and John, because women tended to carry pitchers of water and men carried water in skins.

They found things just as Jesus said, and then Jesus arrived with the others. All according to God's timetable.

When they get to the Upper room for the meal they would have reclined at the table, and prepared for a long evening. The Passover meal was about to become the Lord's supper.

In I Corinthians, Paul makes the earliest known reference to Christ being the Passover Lamb:

I Corinthians 5:7

"For Christ, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed."

The Lord's supper has its roots in the Passover and the two are so intertwined that we should look back at the Passover to get a better understanding of The Lord's Supper.

Let's briefly review the Passover:

The Jewish people had been in Egypt for over 400 years and suffered under a ruthless Pharaoh. Their groans were heard by the Lord. Moses was in the Midianite wilderness at that time and God appeared to him in the burning bush. God told Moses to go to Pharaoh and demand that he let His people go. We know Pharaoh's heart was hardened and he refused. Despite 9 plagues

that God sent on Egypt, including blood in the Nile, frogs, flies, locusts, and darkness Pharaoh refused. The last plague would be the tipping point. God would take the firstborn son and firstborn animal of all of Egypt.

God told Moses that a lamb, without blemish, must be sacrificed, and the blood be put on the doorpost. The lamb was to be eaten along with bitter herbs and unleavened bread. The blood would be a sign for the angel of death to Passover those houses. When God saw the blood, He would Passover the house and save the 1st born inside.

This was a picture of what was to come:

- **God required a substitute to die for the sins of the people**
- **The substitute would be innocent and without blemish**
- **The substitute would stay God's wrath**

The Israelites were saved and delivered out of Egypt. They became God's people under the covenant of Moses, receiving the law at Mt. Sinai. As a perpetual remembrance of God deliverance, every year they celebrated the Passover. They gathered together, ate the bread, the lamb (which was sacrificed) and drank the wine, all of which was done to remember God's salvation from Egypt.

Jesus departed from the usual Passover with His disciples on that Thursday night before His death. He added new meaning. The bread was now to signify His body which was given for them and the wine was to signify His blood shed for them. Jesus was the Passover lamb.

It was his blood shed **on the cross** and **not** the lamb's blood **on the doorpost** that would save them.

Jesus knew he was going to die soon. He had always known He was going to die on this Friday when 1000s of other Passover lambs would be slaughtered. It was coming in a matter of hours. Every Passover Jesus had shared with His family up to that point must have been a stark reminder of God the Father's plan, but this Passover was like no other.

The was a monumental shift from the Old to the New

The Passover- signified out of Egypt and into the Promise Land

The Lord's supper- signifies out of bondage to sin and into Heaven

He told the disciples in verses 15 and 16:

"I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

When he says that “he will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God,” this is strong language. The Greek word for “will not” here is never, ever, ever again. This is His last Passover, when he **eats** the lamb that evening and then **becomes** the lamb on the next day.

But there will be another meal in the future. This is not symbolic, but eschatological or related to the End Times. He is referring to a millennial kingdom meal. During Jesus’s reign on the earth in the future there will be a new Passover, not looking back to the flight out of Egypt, but one looking back at the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Ezekial 45:21 says that there will be a Passover in the Millennial Kingdom. This is part of the 1000-year reign of Christ that Revelation 20 discusses.

However, as Jesus says, there will not be a legitimate Passover meal until Christ reigns in the millennial Kingdom.

When it says **He took a cup**, we know that the Passover meal had 4 cups of wine. The wine was diluted, typically 3 parts water to 1 part wine.

When Jesus says, “**This is my body**”- The verb “is” here does not mean “is identical with,” but means something akin to “signifies” or “represents.” So the bread is not literally Jesus’s body, but represents His body.

Jesus speaks of the New Covenant- By His death, Jesus ratifies the New Covenant of Jeremiah 31:31-34 which says:

Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: ‘I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and ‘I will remember their sin no more.’”

Luke is actually brief about the Passover meal. There may be a few reasons for this brevity.

First, Luke’s gospel comes approximately 30 years after Jesus ends the Passover. And, the Jews would have already known about the Passover very well.

So, for 30 years, the Lord’s supper has been celebrated. So, in that case, why didn’t Luke discuss the Lord’s table more thoroughly?

Well, Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 10 years before Luke wrote his gospel. Thus, in 1 Corinthians, chapter 11 we get a full treatment of the Lord’s table. Perhaps, Luke did not feel a need to discuss what Paul had already written about in great detail. Paul writes in verses 23-26:

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for^u you. Do this in remembrance of me."^u ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

What applications can we take away from today's lesson?

- 1) God was sovereign over the death of Christ. Despite all of the persons involved, and their motives, God's plan was to sacrifice His sons for the sins of His people on Friday. Isaiah 53: 10 says

"Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief..."

Although the Jewish leaders, Pilate and Judas are culpable for their sins surrounding Jesus's death, it was all of our sins from Adam down to you and me that put Jesus on the cross.

- 2) We need to search our hearts and ensure that we are one of His. If not, and even if we are in the church and participate in ministry, we are not safe from eternal damnation. Judas is a stark reminder that hanging around Jesus, the Church or other believers doesn't get us into heaven. Only a regenerate heart whose sins are forgiven will be able to stand before the Sovereign Judge on that day.
- 3) The Passover is over, and the Lord's table is to be partaken as a remembrance of Christ's sacrifice until He comes again. At that time, he will have another meal. What a day that will be. We should take communion with a solemn and serious attitude of our sins and confess them to God and then have a joyous anticipation of the future when Christ visibly reigns over the universe.