



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Road to the Cross – Passover – Last Supper

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The setting is Thursday, four days after Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and several days after he cleanses the temple. All the while the Pharisees, Sadducees and other leaders are plotting and attempting to trick and verbally trap Jesus with questions throughout the days that would call into question His authority and provide them with evidence to kill Him. Jesus is in Jerusalem and moving physically and chronologically toward His death and resurrection.

As instructed by Jesus, the disciples have prepared the Passover meal in an 'upper room' of a certain house and Jesus and the disciple are in the process of eating the Passover meal. Judas was now gone from the meal and room.

We find this recorded in Matthew 26:17-30 and similarly detailed in the Gospels of Mark (14:12-26), Luke (22:7-23) and John (13:1-30).

Matthew 26: 26 While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." **27** And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; **28** for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. **29** "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."
(NASB)

While the Passover meal looks back to remember the Exodus, this Passover night we see the fulfillment through Jesus. Additionally, with this last Passover meal Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. Jesus was the focus and central point of both observances represented by the lamb of the Passover and symbolized by the elements, bread and wine, His blood and body sacrificed on the cross.

Matthew 26:30 After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. **31** Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.'" **32** "But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." **33** But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away." **34** Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." **35** Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." All the disciples said the same thing too. (NASB)

They sang a hymn (Ps 118) and went from Jerusalem and spent the night outside of the city in the Mount of Olives. There Jesus tells them that all of them will scatter and leave Him that night. Jesus shares a prophecy from Zechariah 13:7 (v31). Again, as Jesus shares His coming death He also shares His certain resurrection and where He will meet them after the resurrection (v32).

While Peter and all the disciples appear brave and loyal and tell Jesus that they would never leave Him or deny Him, Jesus tells Peter that not only will Peter scatter but he will deny Him three time that night. Not only will Peter scatter and deny Him, he will also be unable to stay awake during the night, as Jesus request of him, while Jesus prayed.

For Your Consideration:

- How often do we believe that we would respond like the disciples and "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You". Yet, we at time scatter and deny Him in our daily lives?
- Do we remember Him and the price that he paid with His body and blood?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS (SESSION OR HEARING DAYS) AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44

STATE STAFF AND LOBBYIST: WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10PM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44