



CAPITOL COMMISSION

The Last Passover

MAY 11-13, 2011

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Matthew 26:17-30 *“Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?’ 18) And He said, ‘Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand; I am to keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.’” 19) And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover. 20) Now when evening had come, He was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. 21) And as they were eating, He said, ‘Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me.’ 22) And being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, ‘Surely not I, Lord?’ 23) And He answered and said, ‘He who dippeth his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. 24) The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.’ 25) And Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, ‘Surely it is not I, Rabbi?’ He said to him, ‘You have said it yourself.’ 26) And 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.’ 30) And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.” (NASB)*

What was this first day of Unleavened Bread? What was the relationship between the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Passover? Who were the disciples that prepared the Passover and how were they to identify the “certain man?” How does Jesus explain God’s divine sovereignty in contrast to human responsibility? How many times is Judas identified as the betrayer? How does Jesus change the significance of Passover? Do we have introduced here the basis of the entire New Testament? How could Jesus sing before His death?

FOCUS ON FUTURE SATELLITE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 18-20: MATTHEW 26:31-35 SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD
- MAY 25-27: MATTHEW 26:36-46 THE SON STRUGGLES IN PRAYER

The Leaders had decided to kill Jesus after the Feast of Unleavened Bread some nine days later, when most of the people had gone home. But Jesus had predicted His death in two days. When a woman seizes the opportunity to show that she values Jesus supremely and anoints His head with extremely expensive oil, the astonished disciples, especially Judas, revile the woman, “*Why was this waste?*” Jesus tells them, “*The poor you have with you always; but you do not always have Me*”(26:11). With the Gospel, the Apostles will humbly tell the world of the lavish love and the timely act of that wonderful woman. In contrast, they will also have to tell of diabolical Judas.

“JESUS SAID OF HIM THAT HE WAS A ‘DEVIL’ . . . WITH JUDAS IT (WORLDLY AMBITION) WAS THE PREDOMINANT IDEA WHICH GAINED A STRONGER AND STRONGER HOLD ON HIS MIND UNTIL IT FORCED OUT WHATEVER ELEMENT OF GOOD HE ONCE POSSESSED.”
A. CARR

“MATTHEW PRESENTS JESUS AS KING, THE SOVEREIGN LORD OF THE UNIVERSE COME TO EARTH IN HUMAN FLESH. EVEN IN THE MIDST OF JESUS’ BETRAYAL, MOCK TRIALS, AND EXECUTION, HE IS REVEALED IN HUMBLE BUT REGAL DIGNITY. . . THROUGH MAN’S ULTIMATE ACT OF SINFUL DEPRAVITY, GOD ACCOMPLISHED HIS ULTIMATE ACT OF RIGHTEOUS REDEMPTION.” JOHN MACARTHUR

I. THE CLANDESTINE PREPARATION MT. 26:17-19

The disciples come to Jesus on Wednesday morning, the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and ask for His instructions in preparing for the Passover. Christ is very careful in His answer and says, “*Go into*

BIBLE STUDY LOCATION INFORMATION

WEDNESDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – DENNYS ON RT. 1, 11:30AM – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS AT NOBLEWOOD PLAZA
THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – RT. 10, IRONBRIDGE SPORTS Pk, NOON – WYTESTONE PLAZA – 8TH & MAIN – 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – IN THE TIDEWATER AREA (CALL 804-683-2285 FOR SPECIFICS)

Virginia

The Last Passover

the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I am to keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.'" In Mark 14:13 they are given more detail; "a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water, follow him." Usually only a woman would have "a pitcher of water." Jesus has prepared for them in such a way that Judas will not know where they are meeting lest he betray Christ to the authorities before the Passover.

"IN BETRAYING THE SON OF GOD, JUDAS BECAME THE ARCHSINNER OF ALL HUMAN HISTORY."
JOHN MACARTHUR

II. THE CRIMINAL PINNACLE MT. 26:20-25

While Jesus is eating the Passover dinner with His twelve disciples He suddenly drops an emotional bombshell on them by telling them in His most absolute terms that one of them will betray Him. This startling news "deeply grieved" them. Here their godly hearts and tender consciences immediately led them to introspection rather than accusing one another. They all ask, "Surely not I, Lord?" To touch the conscience of Judas, Christ seems to identify him three times and pronounces the greatest woe upon the one who would dare to betray Him; "It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." First, Jesus must have moved His hand to meet Judas', "He who dippeth his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me." He was so trusted that no one seemed to notice. Later, Judas does not want to look suspect by being the only one not to question himself, so he asks, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" Christ responds, "You have said it yourself," a more subtle way of saying "yes, and you are incriminating yourself!" Yet the signs have been so subtle, allowing Judas to voluntarily repent and to keep the others from noticing him. Finally the Apostle John plainly asks Jesus, "Lord, who is it? Jesus therefore answered, "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him" (Jn. 13:25-26). After Jesus gave him the morsel, his

opportunity to repent was gone and "Satan then entered into him. Jesus therefore said to him, 'What you do, do quickly'" (Jn. 13:27). Judas then bolted into the night.

"CHRIST, BY INDIRECTLY GLANCING, IN HIS REPLY, AT THE FOOLISH RASHNESS OF JUDAS, ENTREATS HIM TO CONSIDER THE CRIME WHICH HE WISHED TO CONCEAL; BUT HIS MIND, ALREADY SEIZED WITH DIABOLICAL RAGE, COULD NOT ADMIT SUCH A SENTIMENT."
JOHN CALVIN

III. THE COMMUNION PRESENTED MT. 26:26-30

Jesus transforms the oldest feast of Jewish heritage which literally celebrated the birth of the nation and the freedom from the hard bondage and severe slavery of Egypt. Some 1500 years earlier they had first celebrated the Passover in their escape from their murderous masters who not only subjugated them to slavery, but had killed their male babies for decades. On Passover night, the death angel took the life of the firstborn in every house unless a lamb had been slain and its blood placed above and on the two sides of the doorpost, presenting the mental image of a cross. Every year thereafter, lambs were slain in commemoration of that deliverance at Passover. Jesus suddenly elevated it to commemorate His death for all who would ever believe in Him. "Jesus took some bread, after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'" His body was about to be tortured and killed upon a cruel cross and His last Will and Testament was that His children remember His death for them (I Cor. 11:23-26). "And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.'" It was obvious that He did not mean His literal body as others had misunderstood earlier (John 6:48-66), and all future Christians are to partake of His cup. He gave thanks for his future death providing freedom from sin, and sang of its victory!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Is worldly ambition slowly gaining a stronger and stronger hold on your life?
- 2) Is your love for Christ today that which will prove strong in the face of temptation tomorrow?
- 3) Have you received Jesus Christ and His death for the forgiveness of your sins so that you can sing of His victory?