

The Kingdom of Heaven
A Feast To Remember
Matt 26.17-30

Last week we looked at those people who were with our Lord as he prepared to fulfil His purpose for coming into this world in human form, He came to save us from our sins. Our Lord saves us from our sins by paying the full penalty that we owe for our sins.

As our Lord makes the final preparations for His Suffering and Death on Calvary's Cross He leaves us with an enduring memorial to remind us of His love and grace and the High Price He paid for us. **This memorial is the Lord's Table or Communion.**

A. The Symbols on the Table (vs 26-27) [- *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.* ²⁷ *And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;* – The table that our Lord and the Apostles sat at was actually the table where they ate the **feast of the unleavened bread (Passover).**

The Passover Feast - This feast was supposed to be celebrated annually by the Jews, however there were many years where the people of Israel neglected this sacred feast. The Bible actually records only seven occasions where the feast was actually kept,]

- [The first time was the first Passover, the one that occurred in Egypt (Exodus 12).]
- [The second time was the Passover in the wilderness when the Israelites were going through it heading for the Promised Land (Numbers 9).]
- [The third time was the Passover at Gilgal after the Israelites entered the land under Joshua's leadership (Joshua 5).]
- [The fourth time was the Passover in Hezekiah's day (2 Chron 30).]
- [The fifth time was the Passover in the time of King Josiah (2 Chronicles 35).]
- [The sixth time was the Passover in Ezra's time (Ezra 6).]

- [The seventh and last time was the keeping of the Passover supper by Christ and His disciples (Luke 22:7-15).]

[Other Passovers obviously occurred over the years, but these seven are the only ones mentioned by Scripture.] [—Bible Biography Series, John Butler, 2 Chron 30]

[This Passover Feast, for our Lord and the Apostles was actually a feast, with a table, properly set and garnished with an accompanying meal. Certain rituals or traditions were performed during the course of the feast designed to remind the Israelites of the mighty deliverance God had given the Jews from Egypt through Moses.]

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A. The Symbols on the Table

[**A Greater Deliverance** - Our Lord, during the course of this Passover used this feast and its remembrances to point to an even greater deliverance that would be provided in just a few hours through the suffering, crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.]

[After the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. While walking down this road with these disciples our Lord told them,]

*[Luke 24:25-27 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: ²⁶ Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, **he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.**]*

[This manifestation of our Lord throughout the Old Testament is what our Lord clearly referred to when He said,]

[John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.]

[Hence, our Lord uses the Feast Of Unleavened Bread to reveal the prophetic meaning and spiritual truths contained in the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord.]

As we consider our Lord's Table or Communion we notice:

1. The **Body** (vs 26; Isa 53.4-5; Luke 22.44; Rom 3.35; 1 John 2.2;4.10; Heb 4.15; 1 Pet 2.21-24; Rom 5.8) [- *And as they were eating, **Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.*** – Unleavened bread, a picture of our Lord's broken body.]

Isa 53.4

[**An Ordinance not a Sacrament** – There are some religious systems that call the bread and wine used in communion **sacraments**. What they mean by this term is that they believe that the bread and wine used in communion actually **has saving power**. In the Baptist Church we believe that communion is an ordinance, we are commanded to serve the Lord's Table **in remembrance** of what our Lord has done for us, but the bread and wine do not and cannot save you. Only by accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior can you be born again or saved.]

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- A. The Symbols on the Table
1. The Body - Bread

[**Transubstantiation** – Some religious systems believe that when the bread and wine are blessed that they actually transform and become the body and blood of our Lord. In the Baptist Church we believe that this wine (juice) is still grape juice and this bread is still bread. It does not become the actual body and blood of our Lord, but it is here **to remind us** of what our Lord has done for us.]

[**Broken for our sins** - Hence, the bread on this table **is a symbol**, a picture if you will, that is intended to remind us of the broken body of our Lord. **Jesus Body was broken for our sins**. Isaiah recorded,]

[*Isaiah 53:4-5 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*]

1 Pet 2.21

[Before our Lord was taken in the Garden of Gethsemane we are told that He sweat great drops of blood (Luke 22.44), this was the result of the burden of all of mankind's sin being placed upon our Lord. Jesus, in His suffering

and crucifixion became the just payment (propitiation) for all of our sins (Rom 3.35; 1 John 2.2;4.10). This means that Jesus willingly paid the penalty you and I owed for our sins.]

[Hence, as Jesus was taken before the high priest and was buffeted, mocked and spit upon; you and I deserved that, not Jesus. When Jesus was taken before Herod the Great and had a crown of thorns place upon His brow and was beaten, mocked, and mistreated; you and I deserve that, not Jesus. When Jesus was taken before Pontus Pilate and was scourged; you and I deserved that, not Jesus. When Jesus was taken to mount Calvary, was nailed to the cross, that cross dropped into that hole pulling all his joints out of joint, as Jesus gasped for air upon that cross then gave up the ghost and died; you and I deserved that, not Jesus.]

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- A. The Symbols on the Table**
1. The Body - Bread

[Jesus was the perfect Lamb of God, he had never sinned. The Bible states,]

*[Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, **yet without sin.**]*

*[1 Peter 2:21-24 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: ²² **Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:** ²³ Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: ²⁴ Who his own self **bare our sins in his own body** on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: **by whose stripes ye were healed.**]*

[This bread is meant to remind you of the gravity of your sin. It is meant to remind you of the incredible debt that had to be paid for your sins. God's goal in the reminder of this bread is that you might come to know in a very personal way how much God really loves you. The Bible states,]

*[Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**]*

[Hence, God is uniting you with His love through the continuous reminder of how Jesus suffered and broke His perfect body to pay the sin debt that you owed.]

[Always Remember] - As you hold this bread, and remember, you ought to be grieved for the hideousness of your sins, and grateful for the propitiation of our Lord Jesus Christ.]

2. **The Blood** (vs 27-28; 1 Pet 1.18-19; 1 John 1.7; Eph 1.7; Col 1.14) [*– And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;*²⁸ **For this is my blood of the new testament,** which is shed for many for the remission of sins. – The fruit of the vine, the grape juice. **This juice is meant to remind us of the precious, unique blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.**]

1 Pet 1.18

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- A. The Symbols on the Table
1. The Body - Bread

[**The Unique Blood** – Dr. M.R. DeHaan, a medical doctor, once wrote in his book, **The Chemistry of the Blood**, that every child gets its first drop of blood from its father. Hence, the blood flowing through your veins came from your father, who got it from his father, all the way back to Adam. So that every human being has the sinful blood of Adam flowing through his body. However, Jesus did not have a natural father. Jesus father was Almighty God. That meant that the blood flowing through Jesus veins was not Adam's blood, **instead it was God's blood.** Therefore, Jesus blood was unique blood, and the Bible states,]

[**1 Peter 1:18-19** *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;*¹⁹ **But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:**]

1 Jn 1.7

[Jesus was able to live a sinless life because He did not begin life with Adam's sinful blood in His veins. Jesus was able to be the propitiation for our sins because He was the perfect Lamb of God.]

[**The Cleansing Blood** – Jesus perfect and divine blood is also cleansing blood. What is it that takes away our sins and washes our iniquities away? It is not the flow of baptismal waters. The bible states,]

[1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.]

[It is through the blood of Jesus that we have our redemption and forgiveness.]

[Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;]

[Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:]

[Always Remember - As you hold this cup of the fruit of the vine you should be reminded that the Lord Jesus Christ shed the blood of His Father (God) for the purpose of washing your sins away. You ought to thank God that there is this precious blood that can make you clean and acceptable to God. You ought to praise God that your sins have been removed as far as the east is from the west, only because of the precious Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.]

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A. The Symbols on the Table

1. The Body – Bread
2. The Blood – Fruit of the vine

John 20.6

3. **The Banner (John 20.6-9)** [- **The Folded Napkin** – Covering the elements of the Lord's Table we have this ornate cloth. Even this has meaning for our remembrance this day. When our Lord physically rose from the dead, Simon and John ran to the grave. Listen to what the Bible records as they arrived.]

[John 20:6-9 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, ⁷ And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. ⁸ Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. ⁹ For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.]

[They entered the sepulcher and inside they discover the graves clothes undisturbed where Jesus was laid. It was as if our Lord rose up through those graves clothes without having to unwrap them. In Jesus day when they wrapped someone in graves clothes they wrap them up tightly so that, if they were alive, they would never be able to unwrap themselves. We see

this distinctly when Lazarus was resurrected by our Lord, Jesus command that they should unwrap him, because he could not unwrap himself (John 11.43-33). But Jesus was out of those graves clothes and they were still wrapped up.]

[With one exception, the napkin that had covered Jesus face was neatly folded and set off to the side. **What did this mean?** In Jesus day, if a master sat down to eat, the servant would stand off to the side and would watch his master. Every need had a motion or signal. If the master did his cup a certain way the servant knew to fill it up. If the master did a certain signal the servant knew what the master wanted and responded. If the master wadded up his napkin and threw it in his plate it meant, “I’m done, clean it all up. I’m not coming back.” If the master **folded the napkin** and set it beside his plate it meant, **“Don’t touch this table, I’m coming back.”** When John saw the folded napkin he knew what Jesus was saying, “I’m not done yet, I’m coming back.”]

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A. The Symbols on the Table

1. The Body – Bread
2. The Blood – Fruit of the vine
3. The Banner – The Napkin

[Always Remember - As you watch these men fold this cover during our celebration of the Lord’s Table, you should be reminded, **“Jesus is not done yet, He’s coming back.”**

B. The Savior of the Table – This communion Table speaks of two possible outcomes for your life, and reveals God’s desire for you.

1. **The Result of Rebellion (vs 20-22)** [*– Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve. ²¹ And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that **one of you shall betray me.** ²² And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? – This table is the gospel in illustration. It reveals that God loves you enough to send His only begotten Son to die in your place that you might receive forgiveness for your sins and be redeemed through the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary’s Cross. God’s wants you to accept the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved, **but God will not force you to be saved** you must choose Jesus for yourself. If you refuse to accept Jesus then you condemn yourself to an eternity in the eternal torments of the lake of fire.]*
2. **The Result of Repentance (vs 23-24)** [*– And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed! – How*

can I know that Jesus can really save? Because everything that happened to Jesus was foretold at least 400 years before it all happened. No one can say God didn't know what was going to happen; **it was all a part of God's divine and eternal plan.** Nothing catches God by surprise. Therefore, the things that God says will happen when you repent will happen.]

[When you repent and accept Jesus you are born again into the family of God, your sins are all washed away, and your soul is eternally secured by God. How do I know, because God said it is so. You need Jesus Today.]

CrossRoads Baptist Church, Aug 23, 2020

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2. The Blood – Fruit of the vine
3. The Banner – The Napkin

B. The Savior Of The Table

1. The Result of Rebellion
2. The Result of Repentance