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## Thursday – Day of Anticipation

Matthew 27:17-30

Luke 22:7-23

The four Gospels record fifteen events that took place on Thursday. When you look through the list it is easy to sense the air of anticipation of the impending Passover observance. The disciples initiated the question about where and when Jesus wanted to celebrate the Passover with them. This suggests that in their time together over His three year ministry they celebrated the Passover with Jesus at least twice before, most likely in Galilee. Since the Passover was a domestic feast, they wondered where and when they were going to celebrate it this time in Jerusalem.

Accompanying their concerns of readiness for the Passover were Jesus' statements about His impending death and soon departure. They could not begin to imagine what the next several days had in store for them but we can sense their anticipation of the Passover and the unfolding of what would be Jesus' departure or "exodus" that had been supernaturally revealed to Peter, James and John at the Transfiguration, before they left Galilee, Matt 17:1-13. Traditionally Mount Tabor is considered the Mount of Transfiguration. Looking at these fifteen events one can see how everything that happened Thursday heightened their sense of anticipation that something significant was about to take place.

### **The Passover and the Lord's Supper**

In the midst of this anticipation, the impending Passover was a day of remembrance looking back and celebrating the deliverance of the Jews from bondage in Egypt. The key purpose for Jesus' observance of this particular Passover was to transfer the tradition, celebration and theology of the Passover into the worship and practice of the New Testament church. This He did by transforming the traditional celebration of the Passover into the celebration of the Lord's Supper. He picked up on the two sides of remembrance, looking back and looking forward. Understanding the Passover is therefore a key to understanding the Lord's Supper. Note the following:

- **Two Sides of Remembrance** - One side is the human—we observe the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Him. The other side of remembrance is the divine. We have divine help from the Holy Spirit who brings all things to our memory, John 16:13-15.

- **The Lord's Supper Was Built on the Passover** - Passover was a feast of remembrance from the Hebrew זִכְרוֹן *zichron*, translated "memorial," in Exodus 12:1-28. It was the Lord's Passover, Exod 12:11. Remembrance in Scripture has two sides. Side one is the human, the act of mental recall. At the Passover the Hebrews had to remember to place the blood on the doorpost, Exod 12:7. The other side of remembrance is the divine. If the blood is placed on the doorposts, God will remember to pass over the judgment due your house by providing redemption, Exod 12:12.

### **The Passover's Elements of Remembrance**

1. **Seven Elements of the Passover in Exodus 12** - (1) **Lamb chosen** - On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month; one for each home, 12:3-4; a lamb without blemish, less than one year old, 12:5; a lamb to be shut up until the 14<sup>th</sup> day, 12:6a; (2) **Lamb slain** - between the two evenings, i.e. at twilight, 12:6b; (3) **Blood sprinkled** on the lintels of the door, 12:7; (4) **Lamb eaten** - This was a sacral communion meal in which the flesh was roasted and eaten with unleavened bread, 12:8-9. Because of the holy nature of this meal, nothing was to be left; all leftovers were burned, 12:10; (5) **Meal eaten in readiness** - Each family member was to have clothes in place, shoes on their feet, ready to depart, 12:11; (6) **Deliverance celebrated** - God promised to smite the Egyptians with the death of their firstborn, but the Hebrews would be delivered, 12:12-13; (7) **Remembrance established** - This was established as a memorial feast in perpetuity to be followed by a seven day feast of unleavened bread, 12:13-28.
2. **Passover's Four Cups:** The Passover meal is structured around four cups of the fruit of the vine, unfermented, non-alcoholic wine. The four cups are: first the cup of blessing, second the cup of judgment, then there is the Passover meal. After the meal the Passover resumes with the third cup of redemption, and concludes with the fourth cup of praise.
3. **Lord's Passover Supper** - That they were eating signals they had finished the meal that occurs after cups 1-2 (Matt 26:26; Luke 22:20); Jesus took the 3<sup>rd</sup> cup of redemption and implemented what we know as "The Lord's Supper"; He postponed the fourth cup, sang an hymn - Hallel (Ps 118), see Matt 26, 29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18.
4. **Triple Truths of Passover & Lord's Supper:** The Lord's Supper illustrates three sets of triple truths: (1) God's love, justice, and holiness; (2) Christ's humiliation, suffering, and redemption; (3) Humanity's sin, helplessness, and hopelessness.
5. **The Key Word** - The key word in both the Passover and the Lord's Supper is "remembrance," Exod 12:11, 14. In the Old Testament the word "memorial," used in Exodus 12:14 is a call to reenact the Passover annually in perpetuity. The Hebrew word used in Exodus 12:14 is the word, "memorial." It is the Hebrew זִכְרוֹן, *zikron*, from the root זָכַר, which means "to remember." But

this kind of remembering is more than mental recall. It involves a mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical reenactment of an event. Passover is not just mentally recalling the deliverance from Egypt, but it is a reenactment of the event annually in the home of every devout Jew.

In the New testament we are told "This do in **remembrance** of Me," see Luke 22:19; 1 Cor 11:24, 25. This word is the Greek ἀνάμνησις, *anamnasis* and it is the same root as the "memorial" we saw in reference to Mary's anointment gift to Jesus in Matthew 26:13 μνημόσυνον *mnemosunon*. Here the prefix ἀνα *ana*, is added to the word and means "to bring to remembrance again and again," and indicates that the Lord's Supper is to be a regular recurring "remembrance." This is 1 Corinthians 11:26 which says, "For as often as you eat this bread, and drink this cup, you do show the Lord's death until He comes." Here are the four elements of remembrance in the Passover and the Lord's Supper.

### **Five Elements of Remembrance in Christ**

What is it about this remembrance that calls for mental, emotional, spiritual and physical reenactment of an event in both the Passover and the Lord's Supper? The purpose is a spiritual celebration of God's redeeming grace provided for us in the Lamb of God, slain for our sins before the foundation of the world, Eph 1:4; Rev 13:8.

#### **1. Remembrance Intensifies Love for God & Others - Luke 22:15**

Remembrance, especially through the Lord's Supper, has as one of its purposes to intensify our love for God and for those He came to save.

- Remember His Death on the Cross - Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us, 1 Cor 5:7. This verse tells us that Jesus was our substitutionary atonement. He died in our place and for our sins, Eph 1:4.
- Remember His Great Love That Took Him to the Cross - Greater love has no man than to lay down life, John 15:13; cf. John 3:16. This affirms the depth of God's love for us, that He would give His only Son to save us from our sins.
- Remember His Mercy on Sinners - While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, Rom 5:6. We cannot qualify to receive the redemption that God has provided. It is all an act of His grace and mercy, Eph 2:8-9.
- Remember He is Our Advocate - Through Christ's sacrifice we have an advocate with the Father and He is the propitiation for our sins, 1 John 2:1-2. He also is our Great High Priest and our once for all sacrifice for all sins, for all time, for all who trust Him, see Heb 7:20-28, esp. 7:25; 9:28; 10:10.

- Remember His Redemption - God's redemption is through the blood of Christ, and it is "according to" the riches of His grace, Eph 1:7. God's grace is limitless and cannot be exhausted. He has enough grace to provide redemption for all those who believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior. He is our Kinsman Redeemer, Who restores our spiritual inheritance, Lev 25:25; gives us a new name, Lev 25:25; Rev 2:17; frees us from the bondage of sin, Lev 25:48-49; Rom 7:18 - 8:11; restores eternal life lost due to sin, Gen 2:16; 3:1-24; Rom 3:21-25; 6:23.

## 2. Remembrance Deepens Gratitude to God & Others - Matt 26:26-28

Here are some additional things to remember when you observe the Lord's Supper. It is an opportunity to reflect on the goodness, grace, mercy, love, fellowship, and blessings of God.

- Thanks for the Gift - Thanksgiving recognizes our debt to God. Jesus gave thanks for dying, 1 Cor 11:24, Mark 14:17; Luke 22:17. We give thanks for God's indescribable gift of salvation and life everlasting that we have through Jesus Christ our Lord, 2 Cor 9:15; Rom 6:23; 8:32.
- Thanks for Fellowship with Christ - Thanksgiving promotes fellowship with Him, with one another, and the unity we have in the body of Christ, 1 Cor 10:16-17; 1 John 1:8-9.
- Thanks for Fellowship of the Gospel - Thanksgiving promotes fellowship of the Gospel, Phlm 1:3-5. The Greek word "fellowship" is *κοινωνία*, *koinonia*, which literally means, "common mind." In it we have a common bond and the common mind of Christ.
- Thanks for All Things - Thanksgiving should include all things! Everything means every thing, the good, the bad, and the ugly. It is God's will that in everything, we give thanks, 1 Thess 5:16-22. When we remember and observe the Lord's Supper, we are reminded to be thankful for all things so that we quench not the Spirit of God.

## 3. Remembrance Heightens Hope for All - Matt 26:29; Mark 14:26; Luke 22:25

Remembrance heightens our hope as we reflect on the goodness of God and on all the blessings He has provided to us. It is an encouragement to keep trusting Him to reveal all of His promises in the future, 2 Cor 1:20.

- Remember Our Coming Redemption - Ps 118, Messianic (Matt 26:30; Mark 14:26). Psalm 118 is used 5 times in NT (Matt 21:42; Mark 12:10, 11; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; 1 Pet 2:7).
- Remember Our Coming King - Show the Lord's death until He comes. He's coming! 1 Cor 11:26
- Remember His Coming Kingdom - He drank the cup of redemption, Matt 26:28, but He postponed the fourth cup of praise until we drink

it new with Him in the Kingdom, Matt 26:29, at the marriage supper of the bride and bridegroom, Rev 19:1-9.

- Remember Our Coming Glorification - Our coming glorification involves our own resurrection from the dead, 1 Cor 15:35-58, of which Jesus was the first fruits, 1 Cor 15:20, 23. We will be glorified in order that we may bring eternal glory to Him.

#### **4. Remembrance Encourages Holiness for Ourselves & Others, 1 Cor 11:27ff**

Paul's warning about taking the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner should provoke sober thought on our part. The truth is none of us is worthy. Even though our righteousness is appropriated, our reflection on the grace of God in Christ should be a motivation for holy conduct.

- Remember the Holy Spirit Helps Our Memory - The Holy Spirit was sent to assist our remembrance of Jesus! John 14:26; 16:13-15.
- Remember to Examine Yourself - Warning! Examine yourself, don't eat or drink unworthily, 1 Cor 11:26. Confess your sins, 1 John 1:9; James 5:16; Rom 10:9. We are to purge the old leaven of sin by confession and repentance, 1 Cor 5:8; 10:21.
- Remember to Be a Living Sacrifice - Motive to present ourselves as a living sacrifice, Rom 12:1-2. We are to take up our cross and on it crucify all selfishness that we may live for Him, Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23.
- Remember Jesus Is Our Example of Holiness - As He is holy, we should be holy in all conduct, 1 Pet 1:15-16.

#### **5. Remembrance Proclaims the Gospel to A Lost World, 1 Cor 11:26**

- Remember All Without Christ Are Lost - Rom 3:23 - Paul wrote "all have sinned." It is an awesome reality to be confronted with the fact that sin has separated us from God.
- Remember the Wages of Sin & God's Gift - Rom 6:23  
The wages of sin is "death" but God's gift to those who believe is forgiveness and salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ, John 3:16.
- Remember Nothing Can Separate A Believer From God - Rom 8:31-39  
When anyone receives Jesus as Savior, God forms an eternal and unbreakable bond with that person.
- Remember Whoever Calls Is Saved - Rom 9:30-33; 10:9-10, 12 - Whoever receives Jesus as their Messiah and Savior, whether they are Jew or Gentile, they shall be saved.
- Remember If You Don't Tell, No One Will - Rom 10:14-17 - It is the responsibility of believers to share the good news of God's saving grace freely given in Christ.
- Remember Christ Is the Only Hope for the Lost - Acts 4:12 - Jesus is God's only plan for the salvation of all people. There is no other way!