

Luke

The Gospel for Everyone

Study 27 | Luke 22:7-23

News and Needs

Upcoming Events:

- **Newcomer's Dinner**, Sunday, March 28th, 7:30 PM.
- **Good Friday Service**, April 2nd, 7:30 PM at St. Augustine's Church (116 6th Avenue).
- **Easter Potluck**, Sunday, April 4th, immediately following the worship service.

Opportunities to Serve:

- **New Orleans Mission Trip**, April 24th - May 1st. Registrations are due by April 4th. See website for more details.
- **Easter Choir**, The Resurrection Choir will sing on Easter Sunday, April 4. Rehearsal will be that day at 3:30pm at the church. If you are interested in participating, please contact Evan Mazunik at evan@evanmazunik.com.

"The Last Supper"

1. Why do you think Jesus wanted to celebrate the Passover with the disciples? What was the significance of the Passover meal for God's people? Why did Jesus need to give instructions to Peter and John in verses 9-13?

Jesus spent most of his time during his ministry with his disciples. The disciples heard his teachings and saw him perform miracles. Jesus prepared them to embody and represent him in the world. The last night with his disciples before his death, Jesus wanted to celebrate the Passover with them. All of his time with them led up to this night. "Jesus had passionately looked forward to this meal. It was, for him, the moment above all when he would explain to his followers, in deeds and words rich and heavy with meaning, what he was about to do and how they could profit from it." (N.T. Wright)

The Passover meal signified God's rescue of Israel from the oppression of Egypt during the days of Moses. "When the powers of evil that were enslaving God's people were at their worst, God acted to judge Egypt and save Israel. And the signs and means of both judgment and rescue was the Passover." (N.T. Wright) God showed judgment on Egypt by sending the angel of death to strike down all their firstborn while "passing over" all the firstborn of Israel who had the blood of the lamb on their doorpost. (You can read Exodus 12 with your group for the detailed account.)

Jesus needed to give instructions to Peter and John because the chief priests and scribes were seeking how to put him to death (Luke 22:2). "It was to avoid this danger that Jesus made secret plans for the Passover celebration." (N.T. Wright)

2. In verses 14-18, why does Jesus say that he will not eat the Passover or drink the fruit of the vine again until the kingdom of God comes? Why does Jesus say that the bread is "his body" and the cup is the new covenant in "his blood" in verses 19-20? How is Jesus redefining the Passover meal for the disciples? What is the significance of the betrayal Jesus mentioned in verses 21-23?

Jesus desires to commune with his people! For this reason, he made an allusion to eating and drinking with them again when the kingdom comes. Remember that Jesus gave the parable of the Great Banquet in Luke 14 in reference to the

feast when the kingdom of God arrives. Revelation 19 describes the feast called the marriage supper of the Lamb when Jesus comes again and unites with his people.

In 1 Corinthians 11:28, Paul said, “For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” So, Jesus said that the bread was his body and the cup was his blood because he wanted the meal to signify his death. Paul also said in 1 Corinthians 5:7, “Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” The event of Jesus’ death that unfolded filled out the Passover meal. In other words, the Passover meal is about Jesus and his death! The Passover meal signifies God’s rescue of his people from the oppression of sin. God showed his judgment on Jesus while he “passes over” those who partake of the body and blood of Jesus. God’s people must “eat his body and drink his blood finding their life through his death.” (N.T. Wright)

The betrayal Jesus mentioned in verses 21-23 will set in motion the events that will lead to his death.

3. Why is it important that we celebrate the Lord’s Supper? What happens when we receive the bread and the wine at the Lord’s Supper? What should our attitude be when we receive the Lord’s Supper?

Celebrating the Lord’s Supper is vital for us as the church because it is a means by which we receive life from Christ. Jesus is present with his people at the Lord’s Supper through his Spirit. So, when we give and receive bread and wine during Communion we partake of Jesus through faith and receive spiritual nourishment.

During the Lord’s Supper, Jesus communes with his people! Jesus carried the weight of sin and death and offers us life. Therefore, we do not have to come to the table with the weight of our sin or any heaviness. We can celebrate with great joy and freedom! Christ’s work is finished and his sacrifice is complete once-for-all. Jesus received God’s judgment for sin and God “passes over” those that are marked with the blood of Jesus.

The Lord’s Supper signifies the union Jesus has with his people. So, when we celebrate Communion we can look forward with great hope to the feast of the marriage supper when Christ comes again.

notes

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

notes

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

notes

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE
