

## Before I Suffer

### Introduction

- The Passover was 1 of 3 annual Jewish Feasts (Pentecost & Booths). It was established in Exodus 12 as a reminder of God's deliverance of Israel from bondage in Egypt by killing the firstborn of Egyptians & passing over those in Israel w/blood on the doorposts. It represented **freedom & redemption!**
- Families gathered in homes to eat a meal that consisted of certain food items to remind them of life in & deliverance from Egypt – bitter herbs, unleavened bread, wine & roasted lamb. The lamb was killed at 3 pm, roasted & eaten on Abib 14 (Ex. 12). Symbolism = lamb died for you & must become a part of you; **joined together in union** (Jn. 6:53-58).

### I. Preparation for the Passover (Lk. 22:7-13)

- A. The necessity of the Passover (v. 7)  
*“had to be” (δεῖ) means to be under necessity or compulsion of happening. The Passover Feast was commanded by God in the OT. Jesus was born under OT Law – He, the disciples & all people faithful to Judaism **must** obey!*
- B. Jesus gives a challenging command (v. 8-12)  
*To prepare the Passover, the disciples needed a furnished room & essential food – lamb, bread, bitter herbs & wine. The Lord commands us to test our faith in Him & His word. Believers should **ask God in prayer** for directions & instructions when confused. Jesus had already made arrangements & provisions! *If the Lord gives us a command or makes a promise, He will provide what we need – Abraham & Sarah, Abraham & Isaac, Moses & Pharaoh, Mary mother of Jesus...**
- C. The disciples obey the challenging command (v. 13)  
*Obedience in faith is what pleases God – implies trust in God & His character (omniscience & omnipotence). Their faith is rewarded by God's provision – God will provide! Disobedience in unbelief is a great sin because it is willful disregard to what God has said – implies that God is either untrustworthy or unable to do what He says.*

### II. Participation in the Passover (Lk. 22:14-20)

- A. Jesus is filled with emotions & affection (v. 14-16)  
*Jesus is fully aware that in the next 24 hours he will be brutally tortured & killed; aware that this is the last meal, fellowship, celebration, prayer... **before** He suffers & dies. The next time Jesus has a fellowship meal will be after He returns from heaven in the new age “**fulfilled**” (Lk. 13:28-29). He longed to spend His last hours of life with intimate friends “earnestly desired... **with you**”. The room is filled with emotions, affection & love.*  
*The same is true in our lives before we face some extremely difficult experience or permanent change – spend time with intimate friends! Friendship & fellowship is precious & should never be taken for granted. Take full advantage of times of fellowship because it may be your last!*
- B. Explanation of the cup (v. 17-18, 20)  
*4 cups of wine were passed around & drank during the Passover meal. A prayer of thanksgiving was offered to God for His goodness & blessing. Jesus again emphasizes that the next fellowship meal for Him will be when He returns from heaven “**until the kingdom of God comes**”. The wine represents **the blood of Jesus** & they all drank from the same cup = unity & the new covenant. Jesus' death & the introduction of the new covenant means no more priests, temple, animals, blood, etc. (Heb. 7:27-28; 9:11-12). Therefore we must remember the new covenant in His blood today.*
- C. Explanation of the bread (v. 19)  
*A prayer of thanksgiving was offered to God before the bread was eaten. The bread was then broken & passed around the room to be eaten. The bread represents **the body of Jesus** who will suffer & die for those whom He loves (Is. 53:5). Eating & drinking symbolized union with Jesus. They were & we are commanded to **remember** the life & death of Jesus each time we participate in the Lord's Supper – remember Him in love, obedience... until we sit down with Him for the great fellowship meal in the new age!*

## CONCLUSION

Everything in true religion points to Jesus – OT ceremonies, NT ordinances & activities (baptism, Lord’s Supper, preaching, teaching, singing, praying, etc.). There is no real meaning to religious activities without Jesus. He said, “I am the bread of life”, “...light of the world”, “... door of the sheep”, “... good shepherd”, “...resurrection and the life”, “...way, the truth, and the life”, “...true vine”, etc. Jesus is our High Priest, the Lamb of God, King, Judge, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace... Jesus is the reason we gather for worship, the One we preach about, teach, sing, pray, praise, adore, bless... So my brothers & sisters in Christ, this is simply a reminder today that we are nothing & can do nothing without Jesus (Phil. 1:21). Let’s agree to love Him more today, trust Him more & obey Him more today!

If you are not a Christian, Jesus is the only way of salvation. He is the only Son of God; unique Son of God that has come into the world to save sinners from eternal destruction. **He is the Lamb of God that came to take away the sins of the world; include your sin my friend. He suffered & died for you if you will only believe...**

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