

**Message #52****Mark 14:12-25**

As you know, we are in an election year and several months ago I heard Mike Pence, the VP nominee, tell a funny story of when Donald Trump decided to meet with him and his family at their home in Indiana. They decided to have a breakfast at the Pence home. He said his wife was up until after midnight preparing and devoted a great deal of time to just setting the table. Talk about pressure for a wife, in a few hours you are having a breakfast with Donald Trump and his children to determine whether or not your husband will become the nominee for Vice President of the United States. Now that is a pressured, high-stakes meal.

There is a meal that is described in the Bible that is the most significant meal ever eaten. It truly was a high-stakes meal because this meal had eternal ramifications. It was Christ's last meal and it had deep theological and soteriological meaning. It was the last Passover meal with Jesus Christ on earth in which He instituted the Lord's Supper.

This was no normal meal and this meal demanded careful planning and preparation. In fact, one commentator said what really sets this meal apart is the minuteness of the details. This meal was carefully planned by Jesus Christ Himself. What we see here is this:

**JESUS CHRIST ORCHESTRATED HIS OWN FINAL MEAL THAT WOULD THEOLOGICALLY CHANGE THE PASSOVER MEAL INTO THE LORD'S SUPPER AND SHOW THE VALUE OF HIS SACRIFICIAL DEATH.**

Jesus had been in a home and had been anointed with a burial perfume. That act truly did focus on the death and burial of Jesus Christ. But this next section shows us there is salvific purpose to that death and burial.

There are three main episodes that occur here pertaining to this meal:

**EPISODE #1 – The preparation for the final Passover/Lord's Supper meal. 14:12-16**

In the first century the Jews combined the feast of the Unleavened Bread with the Passover. The Passover Meal actually led to the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Basically you ate the Passover meal with Unleavened Bread and for the next seven days you only ate Unleavened Bread (Ex. 12:15, 19).

According to **verse 12**, on the first day of this festival, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed, Christ's disciples asked Jesus where He wanted them to go to prepare this meal for Him to eat. The lambs were typically sacrificed on a preparation day and so they wanted to know where He wanted to eat this meal. This question was probably asked on Thursday morning because the Passover meal was eaten on Thursday evening.

Now keep in mind that Jesus Christ is the sacrificial Passover Lamb. He is our Passover (I Cor. 5:7). So this will be a very special meal.

According to **verse 13**, Jesus sent two disciples, who were Peter and John (Luke 22:8), to make preparations. He laid out, as only God can sovereignly lay out, exactly what would happen. There are seven preparation actions these two were to take:

**Preparation Action #1** - Go into the city and you will meet a man. **14:13a**

Now the city they were to go into was Jerusalem. Now there would have been thousands and thousands of people in the city. So finding this one guy would be like finding a needle in a haystack.

**Preparation Action #2** - You will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. **14:13b**

This would have been an odd thing to see. Now typically it was the woman who carried a pitcher of water. The men usually carried a water skin. So if you spotted a man who was carrying a water pot, it would be very unusual.

This does show us the Omniscience of Jesus Christ. He could look into the future and know exactly where this man would be and when His disciples would see him. Just as Proverbs 15:3 says, "The eyes of the LORD are in every place watching the evil and the good."

We might ask what the significance is of the man carrying water. Why not carrying groceries or doing something else? Ray Stedman said he thought Jesus has these disciples follow this man carrying water because he would lead them to the place that would feature the One who can give Living Water (John 7:37-38).

**Preparation Action #3** - You are to follow him. **14:13d**

Jesus tells them when you see this man carrying a water pot, you follow him. One question we would ask is why all of this clandestine action. Why not just tell the disciples where the house is located? He could have given them the address. He could have given them the name of the man and the color of the house. Why didn't He?

The reason is because of Judas. Jesus did not want to tip His hand to Judas and let him know where they would be so he could not do his diabolical work earlier than what God determined. This was all part of a Sovereign, Divine Time schedule.

**Preparation Action #4** - Whatever house he enters, you talk with the owner. **14:14b**

We do not know the name of this man. There have been many speculations as to who this was. He must have been a follower of Jesus Christ and we assume that Jesus had made previous arrangements with the owner to use this room. Perhaps the man had invited Jesus to use the room when it was Passover time.

**Preparation Action #5** - Tell the owner that the Teacher asks about His room. **14:14c**

All they would need to do is say, “the Teacher” asks “where is My guest room.” Now of course they are standing in a man’s house and Jesus is calling it “My room.” Do you see that? He is the One who gave the man everything he has. He gave him everything, including his house. It is His room. The house is His. Everything in the universe belongs to Him. He is God.

Now if we walked into someone’s house and said, “The teacher says where is My room,” probably the owner would call the police and we would be arrested. But God was orchestrating every bit of this.

**Preparation Action #6** - The owner will show you the large furnished upper room. **14:15a**

Actually this room will become a key room to these disciples. This room will become like their headquarters after Christ is gone (Acts 1:12-13). So this really was His room.

Now a furnished upper room would be a room with some tables and pillows. They did not have chairs. So this room was nice. It was not some abandoned factory room. This was a nice place.

**Preparation Action #7** - You prepare the meal there. **14:15b**

Now to prepare this Passover meal they would need to have:

- 1) Unblemished Lamb (Ex. 12:5)
- 2) Unleavened Bread (Ex. 12:8, 18)
- 3) Bitter Herbs (Ex. 12:8)
- 4) Four or Five Cups or Canters of Red Wine (Luke 22:17, 20)
- 5) Water (John 13:5)
- 6) A sauce for dipping the bread (John 13:26; Mark 14:20)

This would require careful preparation and these two disciples were responsible to get this ready.

According to **verse 16**, the disciples went to Jerusalem and everything happened just as predicted. Now the disciples already had experienced the sovereign, omniscient knowledge of Jesus Christ, when He sent them to untie a donkey colt and bring it to Him so He could ride into Jerusalem. He laid out exactly what would happen and it did. This happened again and they carefully prepared for the meal.

**EPISODE #2** – The prediction of betrayal at the final Passover/Lord’s Supper meal. **14:17-21**

**Jesus is coming to Jerusalem, but it is not simply to celebrate a feast; He is coming to die.**

A critical part of this happening was a betrayal that He would permit to occur at this meal. Mark gives great details about this. It is interesting that at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, we mention the night Jesus was betrayed, but we typically do not give much time to it. Mark gives great details about that night:

**Detail #1** - Jesus came with the twelve to the upper room at evening. **14:17**

They probably arrived to this room just before the sun went down on that Thursday evening. Notice the emphasis on the fact that all the “twelve” were there. Judas had rejoined the group after his meeting with the chief priests (14:10-11). We may recall he had made a deal with them to betray Christ for 30 pieces of silver.

**Detail #2** - Jesus and His disciples were reclining at the table and eating. **14:18a**

In the first century people did not have tables and chairs. They had low height tables and pillows were around the table so guests could relax and enjoy a meal. Typically they would kind of recline and rest on their left elbow, while leaning toward the table. Originally the Passover was eaten while standing (Ex. 12:11), but this one was eaten while reclining.

**Detail #3** - Jesus informs His disciples that one of them would betray Him. **14:18b**

As they were reclining at the table and eating, Jesus announced to the group that one of them would betray Him. He begins this with the adverb “truly” meaning this is a dogmatic certainty that this is going to happen. These disciples knew when they heard a “truly” statement it did mean dogmatic certainty. In fact, the two who prepared this meal, Peter and John, had been up on a mountain with Jesus when He used the “truly” adverb and said you are about to see the Kingdom of God. Moments later He was transfigured before their eyes. **But this was shocking. This was the first time they had heard anything about this betrayal.**

**Detail #4** - Jesus’ disciples are grieved by this news and question themselves. **14:19**

Their response is both interesting and honest. They were overwhelmed by the thought that one of them would betray Him, but they apparently sensed their own sinfulness and failures. They began to question themselves. When they said, “Surely not I” is written in such a way that expects a “no answer.” In other words, the response is “It is not I, is it?”

David Garland, in his commentary on Mark, brought out an interesting point. He said when you look at most popular paintings of the Last Supper, the disciples are sitting around the table with a serene look on their faces, except for Judas who seems to be “dark and shifty-eyed.” In all reality, it may be that Judas was the only one with the serene look on his face and the rest of the disciples had a horrified look wondering about who it would be who would betray Jesus Christ.

Every one of us can relate to these disciples. Every one of us knows there is something evil in us. There is something defective in us. Honest believers know there is something in them they do not like or trust. There is a sense in which we all question whether or not we will make it to the finish line a winner or loser. We can well relate to the insecurity of these disciples.

**Detail #5** - Jesus identifies the disciple who would betray Him. **14:20-21**

Jesus does not specifically name him, but he certainly specifically identifies him by four identity facts:

**Identity Fact #1** - The betrayer is one of the twelve. **14:20a**

Jesus says, “Yes” it will be one of you twelve.

**Identity Fact #2** - The betrayer is one who dips his bread in the bowl with Me. **14:20b**

This is so sad because what we learn is that the one who would betray Christ was actually one who was very close to Christ. He was at this table and he was eating a meal with Jesus Christ.

Now one thing worth thinking about is when Judas put his hand to dip his bread into the bowl with Jesus, why didn't they block the door and not let Judas leave? The answer is they do not grasp any of this. God would not let them grasp it because He did not want them to grasp it nor prevent it. This was His plan to save us.

**Identity Fact #3** - The betrayer is actually fulfilling the prophetic plan of God. **14:21a**

Jesus is very specific to point out that the reason for this betrayal was the prophetic Word of God. Jesus wanted His disciples to realize that this was all part of a fulfillment of O.T. prophecy. Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 clearly predicted that a sacrificial Lamb needed to be led to slaughter because “all we like sheep have gone astray.” The Lord would die for our iniquity.

**Identity Fact #4** - The betrayer would have been better off had he not been born. **14:21b**

Do not miss what Jesus is implying here; you will go someplace after you die. You don't die and that is it. Now why would it be better not to have been born? Because one who dies without Christ lives forever in a place of eternal fire and forever experiences the wrath of God.

Even though this was the plan of God for Jesus to die, Judas would still be held accountable for his actions. When Jesus uses a “woe” word concerning anything or anyone, it speaks of serious eternal judgment. The betrayer is responsible and he will pay because it would have been better for him to never have been born than to burn forever in hell.

A. C. Gaebelain said if you reject Jesus Christ as your personal savior, these words are for you. It would have been better that you had never been born. Why? Because if you reject Jesus Christ, you will burn forever and ever in everlasting fire.

**EPISODE #3** – The institution of the Lord’s Supper at the final Passover/Lord’s Supper meal.  
**14:22-25**

There were various times in this meal when they ate bread and drank wine. Jesus began the meal by having them drink wine (Luke 22:15-18). They were eating the meal and Jesus implemented something we still do today.

While they were eating the meal, Jesus took some bread and He blessed it and then He broke it and He gave it to them and said, “Take it; this is my body.”

He passed broken bread to His disciples and said this represents Me. He did not do that with the Lamb. He did it with the bread. He is the Lamb.

According to **verse 23**, when He has done this, He took a cup of wine and gave thanks and He blessed it and they all drank from it.

In **verses 24-25**, Jesus gives an explanation of this cup.

This represents His blood which is a covenant blood that is poured out to bring people into a right relationship with God. Many people, not all people, will be saved. The preposition “for” “for many” (**v. 25**) is *hyper*, which means my shed blood has vicarious value. It will wash away all the sin of the many who will believe.

You do not get into a covenant relationship with God by your works or religion, but through His shed blood.

Jesus then says that He will not drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when there is a new Kingdom of God. The word “new” means a brand new, never in existence before Kingdom.

This of course will be the Messianic Kingdom that He will establish when He returns to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

So Jesus takes unleavened bread and a cup of wine and uses it for a symbol of what would happen to Him.

If you reject Jesus Christ, if you refuse to ask Him to be your Savior, it would be better for you that you had never been born. His shed blood can wash away all of your sin, but if you reject Him you will die in your sin and you will forever experience everlasting fire.