

*The Gospel Of Luke*  
**LUKE 22:1-30**  
**JESUS' LAST PASSOVER**

## Passover Approaching

**Luke 22:1-6**

### The Time Drawing Near

The scene is set

- The time is approaching for the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread
- Instituted by God through Moses
- **Exodus 12**

### The Passover

The Passover falls on 14<sup>th</sup> Nisan

- Commemorates God's deliverance of His people Israel from slavery in Egypt
- On the night the plague of the death of the firstborn in Egypt

The lesson was clear

- You rely on the blood of the lamb for salvation
- Or you perish under God's wrath

### The Feast of Unleavened Bread

Starts on the following day

- 15<sup>th</sup> Nisan
- Begins and ends with a Sabbath (a holy convocation)
- Continues for seven continuous days

### The Passover Plot

While the children of Israel were looking forward to Passover  
The leaders of Israel were looking for a way to kill Jesus

### The Conspirators

This conspiracy was made up of

- Chief priests and scribes
- Pharisees and Sadducees

Matthew's gospel tells us

The conspiracy was headed up by the High Priest

- Joseph Caiaphas
- He had deposed his predecessor, Annas, in 18AD
- High Priest was an office held until death
- Caiaphas had illegally seized the position
- He had the support of the Roman Empire

### The Conspiracy

The objective of the conspiracy was: Kill Jesus

The problem was 'how' and 'when'

They wanted it to be at a time when

- Jesus was alone (*for they feared the people*)
- It wasn't Passover (**Mark 14:2**)

*they feared the people*

- The chief priests and scribes did not fear God
- But they did fear the people

### **Proverbs 29:25**

*The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.*

Passover was one of the three pilgrimage feasts

- So many Jewish pilgrims were in the city (of the day)
- Camped on the Mount of Olives during the night

The interest in this Galilean prophet, named Jesus was high

- He was a constant source of attraction
- So, finding Him in isolation was nigh on impossible

### **The Conspiracy Orchestrator**

#### **Mark 14:2**

*But they said, "Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar of the people."*

The chief priests and scribes didn't want to kill Jesus on the day of the feast

No doubt Satan is the hidden orchestrator of the conspiracy

- He has put this desire into their hearts
- He has hardened them to the Son of Man

That he wanted Jesus dead, there can be no question

- But it was important it wasn't at Passover
- Then there would be no fulfilment of Passover
- There would be no atonement

Indeed, there had already been attempts on Jesus life

- But they had failed
- Why?
- His hour was not yet come (**John 7:30; 8:20**)

The devil may well conspire

- But God is in control
- Nothing happens that is outside His providence and authority

### **Traitor In The Midst**

#### **Bedeveled & Betrayed**

Satan now provides the solution: "*Judas named Iscariot*"

- Satan enters Judas
- Possession (Satan now controlled him)

Under Satanic control

- Judas joins the conspiracy
- Provides the solution they had been seeking

What better than to have an inside man

- Who can report an opportunity to seize and arrest
- Who can report an opportunity when Jesus is alone

The conspirators were "*glad*"

- They rejoiced
- Victory pumps all round

### **Financial Agreement**

The nature of the agreement is outlined

The conspirators agreed a fee

- Thirty pieces of silver would be paid
- On delivery of Jesus

Judas bound himself with a promise

- Sought an opportunity to betray Jesus
- To expose him when he was away from the people (vulnerable)

The scene is set

### Judas' Motivation

**Question:** What motivated Judas to betray Jesus?

**Question:** How could one so close to Jesus, become possessed?

Possibilities

- Manipulate Jesus to show Himself as Messiah
- Offended that Jesus was not the Messiah he hoped for

This is speculation

- The Bible is silent on any clear motivation

Probability

- As group treasurer, he embezzled funds
- As betrayer, he received financial gain

The love of money and greed were core to his being

- One sin can lead to another
- Sin can lay you open to demonic control

Judas stole directly from the son of God

- This not only heightened his sin
- It also heightened his vulnerability
- Satan possessed him, not a demonic agent

## Passover Preparation

**Luke 22:7-13**

### Planning The Day

It is the day the Passover lamb is sacrificed

- That is 14<sup>th</sup> Nisan
- The Lamb is killed in the evening (between 3pm and sunset)

The lamb was then eaten after sunset

- At the start of the 15<sup>th</sup> Nisan
- When the feast of unleavened bread began

Early in the day Jesus appoints Peter and John to prepare the Passover

1. Make ready the lamb
2. Make ready the location

### Preparing the Lamb

1. Peter and John would have sourced a lamb
2. Delivered the lamb to the temple compound
  - The lamb would have been killed and its blood poured into a bowl
  - The blood would be poured out at the base of the altar
  - The lamb would have been skinned and the entrails removed
  - Part of the lamb would have been burnt on the altar
  - The rest of the lamb taken home and roasted

### Preparing the Location

Peter and John would need to organise the dining room

- To set the table (14 place settings (one for Elijah)
- The finest place settings and silver ware were used

- Prepare unleavened bread, bitter herbs, wine, etc.
- People dress in their finest clothes

This is all fine

- However, they ask, *“Where will You that we prepare?”*
- They need to know where to make the preparations

## Finding The Guest Chamber

Jerusalem is heaving

- Every available room is taken
- So last minute preparations are not possible

## Guest Chamber Revealed

(it would appear) Jesus had previously procured a location for the Passover

- But had kept its location secret
- To guard against an ambush from those plotting to kill Him

Only now does he reveal this location

- To Peter and John
- So, Judas, his betrayer, is kept in the dark
- He reveals it in a cryptic way

Jesus may have booked a room in His humanity

Jesus identifies the room to Peter and John in His deity

## Guest Chamber Located

The city is a big place

- Yet, He knows Peter and John will see a man with a pitcher of water
- This is unusual as it was the custom for women to collect water (ref. woman at the well, Rebekah)
- The man will lead them to the pre-arranged location
- It is doubtful the man carrying the water is the owner, rather a servant
- The owner, (*“goodman”* in KJV) would direct them to a large, furnished, upper room
- Once there, Peter and John could make the preparations

## Passover Consumption

**Luke 22:14-20**

The rest of the events of the day are hidden from us

- We don't know what the remaining ten disciples and Jesus did
- Although **Luke 21:37** would indicate He was teaching in the temple

## The Hour Of The Passover

### Getting Seated

The evening comes and the disciples gather

- They wash their feet
- Put on their best clothes
- Recline on the triclinium (not a long table as depicted by Leonardo Da Vinci)
- It is time for the Passover meal (Passover Seder)

### A Special Passover

Jesus had shared Passover with His disciples before

- Yet this one is special
- As it would be the Passover on which He would fulfil the ultimate purpose of His first coming
- Therefore, Jesus has *“earnestly desired to eat this Passover” (NIV)*

This would be the last Passover Jesus would partake of until the kingdom of God is established

- By Kingdom of God, Jesus means His millennial kingdom (1,000 year reign)
- While Jesus has the immediacy of His crucifixion in mind (marking the end of His first coming)

- He is looking still further ahead to His heavenly kingdom (marking the start of His second coming)

This last Passover (last supper)

- Is the basis of our communion service
- Where we also look to both comings of Jesus

### **1 Corinthians 11:26**

*For as often as you eat this bread, and drink this cup, you do show the Lord's death till He come.*

Ezekiel 40-48 A vision of the Millennial Temple (Third Temple / Ezekiel's Temple)

Ezekiel 45 Re-establishing of temple sacrifices during the millennium (harkening to the sacrifice of Jesus)

Ezekiel 45:21 The Passover is reinstated (this is what Jesus has in mind)

## The Passover Seder

- Follows fourteen stages (each bearing a name)
- The order of the meal is directed by the Haggadah
- Recalls the exodus narrative from Scripture
- Includes prayers, blessings and songs

### 1. Kadeish קדש

- Recital of Kiddush blessing
- Drinking the first (of four cups) of wine
- Kiddush means sanctification
- This is the 'Cup of Sanctification'
- It is response to this cup that Jesus declares He will not, *"drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come."*

### 2. Urchatz ורחץ

- The washing of the hands
- Jesus washed the disciples feet at this point (**John 13:1-20**)

### 3. Karpas כרפס

- Dipping of parsley in salt water
- The salt water is reminiscent of tears
- It reminds the participants of the life of pain in Egypt (marked by tears)
- It reminds the participants life is hardened and is often immersed in tears

### 4. Yachatz יחץ

There are three matzo prepared

- The middle matzo is broken
- The larger piece is called the afikoman and is hidden (wrapped in a napkin)
- Jesus was middle of three men; He was broken for us (**1 Corinthians 11:23-24**)
- Jesus was wrapped in burial cloth and hidden
- Jesus is the second (or middle) person of the trinity
- Only he is revealed and separated from the trinity during his incarnation and death

The Matzo is

- Unleavened - Like Jesus without sin
- Striped - Like Jesus was striped by the whipping and scourging of the Romans
- Pierced - Like Jesus pierced with the spear and the nails

### 5. Maggid מגיד

- Retelling the Passover story
- Includes the recital of "the four questions" (asked by children)
- Drinking of the second cup of wine (the Cup of Plagues)

### 6. Rachtzah רחצה

- Second washing of the hands

## 7. Motzi מוציא, Matzo מצה

- Blessing before eating matzo

## 8. Maror מרור

- Blessing and eating of the maror
- Maror from the Hebrew root 'mar' Meaning 'bitter'
- Naomi referred to herself as Mara when returning from Moab "*for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.*" **Ruth 1:20**
- It commemorates the bitterness of life in Egypt

## 9. Koreich כורך

- Further eating of a sandwich made of matzo and maror
- Maror is bitter vegetables (usually horseradish)

## 10. Shulchan oreich שלחן עורך

- Literally means "set table"
- The serving and eating of the Passover meal

## 11. Tzafun צפון

- Eating of the *afikoman*
- Children look for the matzo, it having been hidden earlier
- This is a picture of Jesus resurrection
  
- The afikoman is broken into little olive-sized pieces
- Distributed between the participants by the head of the table

It is this aspect of the Passover Seder that Jesus uses

- To institute the sacrament of communion
- **Luke 22:19**

Jesus says, "*this do in remembrance of Me.*"

It is a memorial feast

- Roman Catholicism calls it the sacrifice of the mass
- There was only one sacrifice, that was Jesus Christ on Calvary 2000 years ago
- It is the only body and blood He offered that is efficacious for cleansing sin

Roman Catholicism states that

- The bread turns into the actual body of Jesus
- The wine turns into the actual blood of Jesus
- It is transubstantiated (the substance is transformed) at the moment the priest blesses the wafer

This is not only wrong

- It is barbaric
- It denies the sufficiency of the cross

## 12. Bareich ברך

- A blessing (or grace) spoken after the meal
- Drinking of the third cup of wine
- The Cup of Redemption

In Judaism the cup symbolizes the blood of the lamb

- That was applied to the lintels and the doorposts of Jewish households
- That saved the Jewish citizens from the plague of the death of the firstborn in Egypt

Jesus takes this third cup and makes it the communion cup

- He is the lamb of God slain for us
- His blood, applied to the lintels and doorposts of our lives
- Saves us from the judgement for sin

### 13. Hallel הלל

- Recital of the Hallel (Songs of Praise)
- Psalm 113-114, before the meal
- Psalms 115-118, after the meal and Psalm 136
- Drinking of the fourth cup of wine (Cup of Praise)

#### **Mark 14:26**

*And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.*

### 14. Nirtzah נירצה

- A closing prayer
- A statement of hope that the Messiah would come and establish a perfect spiritual kingdom so the next Passover would be during His messianic reign
- "Next Year in Jerusalem!"

The past was not only remembered  
The past was relived

## Passover Betrayal & Dispute

### **Luke 22:21-30**

This passage is an expansion of the conversation during the Seder

- Though recorded after the meal
- The events occurred during the meal

### Judas Identified As The Betrayer

Jesus declares that

- The one who will betray Him
- Is present at the table
- They all inquire who among them it is

### **John 13:21-30**

Expands further on this conversation

### **John 13:26**

*Jesus answered, "He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it." And when He had dipped the sop, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.*

This is during stages 8 and 9 of the Passover Seder

- Where they dip a piece of matzo into the maror

Thus, Judas was not present for

- The institution of the communion sacrament
- He did not witness the promise of the kingdom
- The hope of salvation was not given to him

Nobody knew Judas was the rotten apple

## The Greatest Of The Disciples Debate

### **Luke 22:24-27**

Jesus' betrayer would be considered the least among the disciples  
The flip side of this debate is, who is the greatest among the disciples?

In response to this debate

- Jesus taught the disciples a kingdom principle
- The principle of servanthood

### Greatness in the World

The greatest among the Gentiles are kings

They “exercise lordship” “over” and “upon” people

In the world

- Position and status indicates greatness
- Stepping on others to get ahead indicates greatness

### Greatness in the Kingdom

In the kingdom of God

- This should not be the case
- Greatness is seen in servanthood

Within the church there may be those

- Named Pastor, Vicar, Worship Leader, Bishop or Reverend
- But it is the one who serves is the greatest in God’s eyes

We should not seek greatness in the eyes of men

We should seek greatness in the eyes of God

### Greatness In Jesus

Jesus led by example in this matter

- Having already washed their feet
- Acted like a servant to His disciples

Endeavour to wash feet

Not use those feet to step on others to get ahead

### Appointment To A Kingdom

**Luke 22:28-30**

Having admonished His disciples for their self-seeking motivations

Jesus, graciously, promises them greatness when He comes into His kingdom

### Kingdom Promise

Jesus speaks of

- Their companionship during his hardships and trials
- His appointment (by the Father) as an absolute monarch in the Messianic Kingdom
- An appointment of the disciples also to positions in the Messianic Kingdom

This appointment will carry the benefits and responsibilities

- Dining at the table of the Messiah
- Judging (or ruling) the twelve tribes of Israel

At present they are unfit for the role to which Jesus is appointing them

- But come the resurrection
- But come the Holy Spirit
- But come their justification, sanctification and glorification
- They will be ready

Jesus looks at us all

- Not as we are
- But as we will be

### Kingdom Government

Jesus Christ will be the king (absolute monarch)

**Zechariah 14:9**

*And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and His name one.*

His government will have two branches

- Jewish branch
- Gentile branch



### **Gentile Branch**

- Co-ruling with Christ - The Church and Tribulation Saints
- Under the co-rulers - Earthly kings (natural bodies)
- Under the kings - Gentile nations

### **Jewish Branch**

- Co-ruling with Christ - King David
- Under the co-rulers - Twelve Disciples
- Under the kings - Twelve Tribes of Israel