

Daily Bible Readings

Our Read-Ahead for: 26 March 2023

The Lord's Supper

Monday: Keeping the Passover to the Lord (**Deuteronomy 16:1-8**)

Tuesday: What Does This Observance Mean? (**Exodus 12:21-27**)

Wednesday: Preparation for the Last Supper (**Luke 22:7-13**)

Thursday: Partaking of the Lord's Table (**1st Corinthians 10:14-22**)

Friday: Showing Contempt for the Church (**1st Corinthians 11:17-22**)

Saturday: Examine Yourself (**1st Corinthians 11:23-32**)

Sunday: The Last Supper (**Luke 22:14-30**)

Daniel's Prayer

Lesson Text: **Luke 22:14-30**

Bible Background: **Luke 22:14-30**

Devotional Reading • **1st Corinthians 10:14-22**

Keep in Mind: *“But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve”*
(Luke 22:26, KJV)

Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: **RECOGNIZE** that even Jesus believed in service; **REFLECT** on the sacrificial elements of the Lord's Supper; and **SHARE** the sacrifices of our Lord with others.

In Focus

We all are called to be God's servants. In today's lesson, we will examine how Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf was an act of service.

Focal Verses

Luke 22:14 ~KJV

14 And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him.

15 And he said unto them, with desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer:

16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

17 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, take this, and divide it among yourselves:

18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.

20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

21 But, behold, the hand of him that betrayed me is with me on the table.

22 And truly the Son of man goes, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!

23 And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing.

24 And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest.

25 And he said unto them, the kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.

26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.

“27 For whether is greater, he that sits at meat, or he that served? is not he that sits at meat? But I am among you as he that serves.

The Lesson

I. The People, Places and Times

Jerusalem. Jerusalem was both the religious and the political seat of Palestine, and the place where the Messiah was expected to arrive. The temple was located there, and many Jewish families from across the world traveled to Jerusalem during the important feasts. “The temple sat on a hill overlooking the city. Solomon had built the first temple on this same site almost 1,000 years earlier (949 B.C.), but the Babylonians destroyed that temple (2^d Kings 25). The temple was rebuilt in 515 B.C., and Herod the Great enlarged and remodeled it.

Jesus spent a lot of time in Jerusalem at the temple teaching and preaching. Religious leaders often challenged His authority and teachings at the temple. After the death and resurrection of Christ, Jerusalem became the focal point for most events connected with Christianity, beginning with the day of Pentecost and including much of the history contained in the Acts of the Apostles. In A.D. 70, the Romans destroyed the temple, the city, and its inhabitants with fire.

The Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Feast of the Unleavened Bread immediately followed the Passover and lasted seven days during the month of Nisan (March–April). On each of these days, after the morning sacrifice, a sacrifice in relation to the feast was presented. Unleavened bread alone was eaten and the Israelites removed all yeast from their homes (Exodus 12:15–20; 13:6–8; Leviticus 23:6; Deuteronomy 16:3–8). In the context of the exodus from Egypt, eating bread without yeast signified the haste of their preparation to depart. Moreover, yeast was not used in most grain offerings to God (Leviticus 2:11). Yeast sometimes symbolized sin. A little yeast will affect the whole loaf, just as a little sin can destroy a whole life. A holy convocation and rest from work, except for preparing food, were celebrated on the first and seventh days of the feast.

II. Background

The Passover and Festival of Unleavened Bread were approaching. All Jewish males 12 and older had to go to Jerusalem, but the chief priests and scribes felt it would not be a good time to begin their plan to kill Jesus. They knew the large crowds, who came for the Passover, could rise and stone them for hurting Jesus. So, they tried to figure out a way to kill Him in the most secretive manner. However, they needed someone to help them. Satan entered the heart of Judas, leading Judas to conspire with the priests and scribes to betray Jesus for money, 30 pieces of silver (Luke 22:5). Waiting for the right time, he joined the disciples, who were in Bethany, preparing for Passover. Jesus arranged to celebrate Passover in the upper room of a house with the disciples. Peter and John went ahead to Jerusalem and prepared the meal for them to share.

In Depth

Institution of the Lord’s Supper (Luke 22:14–20) “Because they had put blood on their doorposts, Passover celebrated God passing over the Israelites’ homes and not killing the firstborn males and animals (Exodus 12:1–13). The Passover meal began the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Peter and John secured a lamb, killed it, and prepared it for the Passover celebration. They also purchased unleavened bread, wine, and herbs. These were all necessary items for the meal. They made sure everything was ready for Jesus and the other disciples when they arrived from Bethany. Once they arrived, on the second night, Jesus and the apostles gathered for the Passover meal. Judas was present with them. He carefully planned the best time for him to betray Jesus and turn Him over to the officials.

It had been prophesied that Jesus, the Messiah, would be betrayed (Psalm 41:9; Zechariah 11:12–13; Matthew 20:18; 26:20–25; Acts 1:16, 20). The people had offered praises of “Hosanna, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” as

He entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Yet, they would eventually cry out for His crucifixion. In His death and shed blood, Jesus symbolizes the slain Passover Lamb.”

The Betrayal (Luke 21–23) After the Passover meal and Lord’s Supper was over, Jesus said, “But, behold, the hand of him that betrayed me is with me on the table. And truly the Son of man goes, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed! And they began to enquire among themselves, which of them it was that should do this thing” (Luke 21–23). Here, Jesus let His disciples know that one amongst them, that had celebrated Passover and the Lord’s Supper at the table, had betrayed Him. The disciples became suspicious about who would do this to their leader. In Matthew and John’s accounts, they identify Judas Iscariot as the betrayer (Matthew 26:25; John 13:26). Jesus knew His destiny of death on the Cross was predetermined by His Father. It was not unexpected. Jesus had come into the world to save us from sin. This could only be accomplished through His death and resurrection. Satan used Judas to fulfill God’s plans. Judas realized that he was wrong for betraying Jesus, but his actions could not be reversed. Thus, he committed suicide (Matthew 27:3–5).

Servant Leader (Luke 24–30) Jesus had just told His disciples about His impending death when a dispute arose among them over who was the greatest (Luke 22:24). They were only concerned about themselves. It is very easy to lose focus and start to think about ourselves as superior to others. The disciples were a group of strong-willed men who felt they were very important. This also happens in today’s churches.

III. Take Aways

IV. Closing Prayer