

**Passover is a Meal from the Past, for the Present, and for the Future***Introduction*

- Title. Tonight MT, see Jesus eat Passover (PO) w/ disc. Last supper, last night before horrible death on cross – so you know how solemn, special evening is. Jesus: **“I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer” (Lk 22:15)**, because knew tonight, MT, would take old PO, change it, and give to Church new PO. So, title.

*From the Past*

- Comes from long ago in past. 1500 years before Jesus born, Isr slaves in Egy. 400 years! God heard cries. Sent M&A to Pharaoh (in Exodus), let people go. Plagues. 10<sup>th</sup> – angel of death, firstborn. Spared: select lamb, without defect, slaughter, blood on doorframes, PO (pass over). Commemorate w/ special meal, (1<sup>st</sup> lesson), celebrate ann. because by blood of lamb God passed over homes, spared.
- Did celebrate annually, for 1500 years, until Jesus (**vs. 12a**). Only meant to last until Jesus. Entire PO festival pointed ahead to something greater – prophecy to be fulfilled. John Bap: Agnus Dei, JC, lamb God selected, without defect (sin), slaughtered; not doorframes but cross. Commemorate w/ special meal, new PO, celebrate often because by blood of this lamb, JC, God passes over sins, spares us.
- See, PO is meal from past. Goes all way back to Ex, slavery in Egypt. Not meant to be celebrated anymore because finds fulfillment in Agnus Dei, Savior Jesus Christ. From past.

*For the Present*

- On first MT, night before death, when Christ instituted Lord's Supper, PO became meal for present. Jesus took old Passover, changed, gave Church new PO – Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, Eucharist – new PO meal for present. **Vs. 22-24**. That night Jesus changed old PO into new.
  - Now compare. In old PO: ate lamb, bread w/o yeast, drank cup of wine. In new PO: bread w/o yeast is Lamb, of God; cup of wine is blood of Lamb.
  - When God gave old PO: at same time making covenant with people, blood of PO lamb ratified that covenant. When Jesus gave new PO, said **vs. 24** – so with his own blood, ratifying God's new covenant of forgiveness.
  - Old PO looked back, remembered how delivered from bitter slavery in Egypt (bitter herbs). New PO also looks back, (**“remembrance”**) of how delivered from bitter slavery of sin.
  - Old PO meal showed God's hatred for sin Egypt, love for people. New PO meal (connected to Jesus' death on cross) shows God's hatred for sin, love for people.
  - Most obvious, in old PO: lamb is victim, saves people from death. In new PO: Lamb of God is victim, saves people from death. All kinds of comparisons between old PO meal & new, LS. So you can see how God intended old PO for past, new for present.
- How do we celebrate this new PO in present? Just the way Jesus instituted it:
  - Used bread & wine; we do too.
  - Spoke words “this is;” we speak those same words of Jesus, too. And we believe them! Many don't; “symbol that represents.” But (as been teaching 8<sup>th</sup> Cat) if you have picture of someone you love, not same as them being there. In LS, don't just have picture of Jesus (symbol, representation); Jesus says really there. Miracle, can't understand. But since Jesus knows how to do miracles we can't understand, we simply take at word and believe when says, “This is.”
  - Jesus also said **vs. 24 + “for the forgiveness of sin” (Mt 26:28)**. So we believe HC forgives sins. What precious comfort for you/me today! When we step forward for Com, Jesus is giving true body/blood for forgiveness of all our sins and for strengthening of faith in Jesus as Savior. What he intended for this Sacr to do! That's how we celebrate in present.

- Reminds me: when look at Mk 14, actual account of evening, see one person who really needed forgiveness of sins, strengthening of faith – name Judas. His tragic story unfolds: vs. 18-21. That night, Jesus with 12 closest friends, sharing bread. Said, one of you, my closest friends, will betray me. You know: left, got guards, met in garden, kissed cheek, initiated arrest. Also know: overcome with guilt, lost all hope in forgiveness, took his life, went to hell.
- Easy to vilify Judas. But before you do, remember: other disciples abandoned him, too; Peter denied he even knew Jesus. Bring this up to remind us, Judas isn't only bad guy here. We have same capacity for betraying Jesus that he had. As Christians, may not like to think that. But whenever we sin, we are betraying Jesus! That puts us same crowd as disciples who fled, as Peter who denied, as Judas and soldiers who arrested. When we say our sins nailed Jesus to cross, that's really true!
- Also true, Jesus gave new PO, LS, to forgive those sins that nailed him to cross, and to strengthen our faith in Jesus as our Savior. Difference between Judas & Peter not in severity of sin, but in repentance and faith. When Judas sinned he turned away from Christ in despair. When Peter sinned, turned to Christ in repentance, wept bitterly. Maybe tonight when you take HC, if not with eyes then with heart, you should weep bitterly, because you're as much of betrayer of Jesus as Peter and Judas. But Jesus gave this Sarc to forgive our sins of betrayal, strengthen faith in our Savior. So like Peter, turn to Christ in repentance, and trust forgiving promise of Jesus that he makes in this new PO and gives now. That's what makes HC a PO meal for present.

#### *For the Future*

- Also for future. Vs. 25. In Mt adds, “**Until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom**” (26:29). So Jesus looking forward to future; knows this death won't be end; and knows someday he'll share a victory meal with disc in heaven – PO meal for future.
- Someday you'll die, placed in tomb, like Jesus tomorrow. But someday, like Jesus on Easter, you'll rise from dead, come out of tomb; your body will be glorified like his. Don't want to turn this into ES sermon. But, Mt 26:29. Jesus looking into future, our eternity in heaven, when we'll share PO meal with Jesus face to face. This Easter, at Fest service, First Lesson is Is 25: “**On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine – the best of meats and the finest of wines**” (25:6). This is picture of heaven: banquet, festival, w/ food & drink, celebrating, joy. That's how God pictures heaven – feast! That's new PO meal that God is preparing for us in heaven because of JC our Savior, death & res we'll witness this weekend. We will someday celebrate that holy feast with Jesus in heaven; why PO is meal for future.
- So we have 1<sup>st</sup> Passover and the Exodus from Egypt, in past. Lord's Supper, Christ's true body/blood together with bread/wine, in the present. Banquet hall of heaven, in future. Title. God dines with his people. May Jesus bless you tonight as you dine with him.

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

<sup>12</sup> On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?” ...

... <sup>18</sup> While they were reclining at the table eating, [Jesus] said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me.” <sup>19</sup> They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely you don't mean me?” <sup>20</sup> “It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me.” <sup>21</sup> The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

<sup>22</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.” <sup>23</sup> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

<sup>24</sup> “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,” he said to them. <sup>25</sup> “Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”