

Preparation for the Passover

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[0 : 00] Luke chapter number 22 and verse number 8, it says that, And he, Jesus, said to Peter and John, he told them to go and prepare us of the Passover. And so we're getting to, we're in this last week, as you know, headed to the cross.

And Jesus tells John and Peter to leave, something that these two men would have been familiar with their entire lives. They would have been part of a Passover meal. Their people, the Jewish people, have been doing this now for 1,500 years.

I want to make sure you know the history of the Passover. You go back to the book of Exodus, right before the children of Israel are going to leave Egypt, where the great Red Sea story that you know about, the great deliverance God provides.

The nights before they leave, next is 12, chapter number 2, it says, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year to you.

Which God says, I'm doing something new here. I'm going to start something new with you. We're going to, this will be the first month of the year to you. And then speak unto all the congregation of Israel.

[1 : 02] On the first times of the Bible that this group, this family that has grown, gets referred to as a congregation, as a nation. And they says, In the tenth day of the month thou shalt take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house.

And so it's a meal and it's a sacrifice. The next verse would say that if your family was small, so much that you wouldn't be able to eat the entire lamb, you can invite your neighbors to join you, because it was something that bound them together, that welded this group together as a congregation.

And so as they would take the lamb, the sacrifice would be made, they would take the blood from the lamb, and that they would paint over with the blood over the doorpost. And so when the death angel would come and would look and see, the blood was on the door.

And because the blood was on the door, he would pass over that home. And so now this has been happening for 1,500 years. It tells us in that same passage that not only all the things that they're supposed to do, how the lamb should be prepared, how the family should join together, every home should do this.

It also tells us how they were going to be dressed, that they should be dressed, ready to run with their shoes tied together, and ready to go with staff in hand, and remembering the great exodus that God was going to give, the great deliverance from the enemies that they had in Egypt and the way that they had been treated.

[2 : 29] Sam Wilson, who's with us often throughout the year, he travels, as you know, works with Jewish people. On the night of Easter, he is going to lead us through Passover Seder, and he's going to show us these things as he's done before, and I look forward to it.

So there he tells John and Peter that they need to go and prepare the Passover, and they knew what that required, what was the preparation. But they're going to find the preparation that Jesus had already made.

That's in verse number 10 where he says, where are you going to find a place? All the Airbnbs would have been filled. We've talked about how filled this is. This is a holiday beyond anything that we could really understand, that every place possible.

If you lived within the area, your family and friends are wanting to know, can I stay with you on this weekend when this is going on? Finding a place would have been just nearly impossible without some advanced planning.

Well, Jesus had done that. He had made preparation for them, and he said that when you're going, you're going to see a man walking with a pitcher of water, and when you go to them, speak to them, and he will tell you where you need to go.

[3 : 38] I reminded you this was a sacrifice. It required being done in the area of the temple there in Jerusalem with the oversight of the priest. It wasn't just happening anywhere, but there was a place in which they were supposed to go.

And so there needs to be a preparation for a room for them to have this meal together. I wonder, how are they going to know that a man is walking with a pitcher of water? That seems like that would be a quite easy thing to do, you know, and go down to the restaurant.

Whoever's drinking a Coca-Cola, then, you know, that's who you're supposed to speak to. Like, the odds aren't very good that you're going to find it. A little bit of study, I see that it's not often that men would have been carrying a jar of water.

They normally would carry a wine skin. We know the story of the woman of the well. That was typically given to the women of the day, and so that would have been noticeable. I don't know all the man's in which it was done, but I know that our Lord and Savior had made preparation for them so that they could have a room that was set up.

And when they find them, the man knew exactly what they were talking about and takes them to the room. And so now they have to, the room is set up, they see it, they see that it's laid out, that it's going to be able to hold the group that they're going to have.

[4 : 44] And so they get the lamb that was prepared by the priest, and they're going to bring it in to the temple. And as that is happening, as that Passover is being prepared, the real Passover lamb is being prepared for them, and it's being prepared for them in the most striking and surprising way.

That's what we see in verses 1 through 7 of this chapter. As I said, there's two parallel preparations going on. That's where the chief priests and the scribes and the religious rulers of the day had gathered to figure out how they could kill Jesus, because they feared the people.

And what they needed was an opportunity when he was not with the multitude, and they were considering that, and how were we going to do it? I told you a few weeks ago, remember, they said, we can't kill him during this time of the festival, there's too many people.

And Jesus said, no, you're going to kill me, you will, this will happen. He prophesied the death, and they're going to walk right into what they said they would not do, their anger and their fear of the people have brought them to this point.

So they're devising a plan. So how is this Passover lamb being prepared for them? How is Jesus being prepared to be the final Passover lamb? Well, first of all, it's by the betraying words and the actions of an unfaithful disciple.

[6 : 03] As they're talking, how are we ever going to do this? How will we find Jesus at a time where there's not a multitude? Judas walks into the story, and he says, I will betray Jesus.

I will tell you where he will be at so that you will know. And we find in scriptures, in all the gospel records, it references the money.

But in John, it tells us that Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, who would betray Jesus, why was he not, he sees that somebody was giving worship to Jesus, and ointment was giving to Jesus, and the woman there was washing the feet of Jesus.

And he looks and he says, why would you do this when all this money could be taken and be given to the poor? And then we learn there that he was a thief, and he had the bag and the bag that he put therein.

That Judas loved money. It's being highlighted for us. A motivating force for Judas in betraying Jesus was, he's not the Messiah that's going to be the king now.

[7 : 01] I am not going to be elevated in this lifetime. What can I get from this? And he decides he's going to cash him. He's going to negotiate. Because money becomes life.

Money represents time. And so Judas wants to take from his life the ad to his own. So we see the betraying of an unfaithful disciple. We see the evil purposes of Satan.

And then the scheming of religious leaders. Can you imagine the most famous or influential religious leaders of the day? We've said that politically they would have been separated, but because of their hatred for Jesus, they're now all united in that.

But they're all sitting together, devising a plan how that they could kill someone. And they want to kill Jesus when Judas walks in. And this is a preparation as well.

This is a fulfillment of Scripture. Just like where Jesus told John and Peter, you're going to see a man walking with a picture. 500 years before this story. In Zechariah, we have a passage that tells us that it's going to be prophesied.

[8 : 04] Parallel passage in Matthew, Judas says, What will you give me? And I will deliver him unto you. There's a negotiation. What can I get out of betraying Jesus?

Well, the number had already been decided. Zechariah chapter number 11, verses 12 and 13. Follow along in your Bible here on the screen with me. But it says, And I said unto them, If you think good, give me my price.

And if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter a goodly price, that I was prized out of them. And they took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord.

In this prophecy, we see a negotiation. Judas makes a negotiation. What will you give me for this? The amount and the fact that it's silver remains the same.

And then in Zechariah it says, But they will cast it before the potter. We don't see that in Luke chapter number 22. What are they meaning about casting before the potter? You may know this, or may you're learning this today, is that after Judas betrays Jesus, he will take those pieces of silver, he will go back to the men that he receives it from, and he will give that to them, and he will go and hang himself.

[9 : 20] And they will take that money, and they will say, We don't want this money. So they will go and buy a piece of land from a potter, that will become the burial grounds for the poor. So Jesus made preparation, as we see with the story of John and Peter.

But we see the God of heaven making preparation here, and being prophesied far before. And so now we have the last and the ultimate Passover lamb that's being prepared. Jesus is the final and ultimate Passover lamb.

1 Corinthians chapter number 5 and verse 7 says it just like that. Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, and ye unleaven, for even Christ our Passover has sacrificed for us.

So in the book here in Luke, we're seeing preparation that is made. We should not be missing the point. One is sitting at the table prepared by John and Peter, and the second will walk in, wash the feet of those that will betray him, and sit down.

So two stories running parallel come together when Jesus sits at the table with his disciples. And in the Bible, God has made it so very clear to the nation of Israel, and to us today, as we're reading this, about the fact that Jesus Christ is our final Passover lamb, that he is the ultimate redeemer.

[10 : 40] Now I told you John and Peter were led into the room, incredible preparation. But you know, 2,000 years before the story in Luke chapter number 22, is the famous story that you should know of Abraham and Isaac.

Abraham takes his son upon the mountain, and he's going to sacrifice his son, but there is provision that is made for him. There is a ram that is there. There is a substitute that will die in the place of his son, and that God provided that for him.

And that picture is so clear. Then you go 1,000 years from that story, and David did what he was told that he was not supposed to do, but it would seem to be a very easy temptation for a king, which is, how many people do I have fighting for me these days?

Somebody get me a count. But he was told that he wasn't supposed to have a count on those things. And God was moving, and people were dying, and God comes to this one place that is owned by man, and it stops.

And David goes to that place, and he tells the man, I want to purchase this land. I want to build an altar that is here, where the angel has stopped, and the man's name was Ornan the Jebusite.

[11 : 54] And so David wants to buy the land, but he says, I'm not going, the man says, I'll just give it to you. You're the king. And David says, I don't want to have anything that doesn't cost me. So he purchases this land, which happens to be in the area where Abraham and Isaac, where that was seen.

And then now it's here. And then when David makes preparation for the temple, and he looks at the land that he owns, where the temple is going to be built, it's in the same spot that he had purchased.

And so God is continually showing, all throughout the Bible, this plan of redemption, of how he provides for his people.

And so it ought to be evidently clear for us here. Do you know the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite, it was on the Mount Moriah. Jesus is somewhere within yards of it, within the temple. The same temple is built upon the foundation of Solomon's temple.

As God has sent a person carrying water to help John and Peter, now God has made all the preparations for a very clear picture of redemption. And then not only that, but God has preserved his word, and he's placed it in your lap today in front of you, and I hope you don't miss it.

[13 : 05] But the Bible has been so clear to us that Jesus Christ is our substitute for our sins. And he wants the world to know this.

And so the two stories merge. So when Jesus gets to the table, and he walks up and he says, with desire, I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

The disciples are yet to really understand it. They haven't embraced the truth. Time and time again, we see this about them. In John chapter 20, it says they don't know the scriptures, and that he will rise again.

They don't seem to understand. They continue to argue. There's things they do that they should understand, but they don't. They ask questions. We see that they're just ordinary people. Jesus was fully aware and fully prepared as he sat down at the meal, understanding.

He told them, I want to have this meal with you before I'm going to suffer. Jesus made it clear to them that he was fully aware. In the days and months to come, when they'll see the resurrection and all these things happen, and they'll go back, and they'll consider Jesus' words at that last meal with them, and they're going to know our Savior was not taken by surprise, that he laid down his life.

[14 : 17] And the holiness of God is written on every sentence of God's word. We see God from the word. And so now the Lamb of God sits down at the table for the Passover meal.

And then think about all of those that are around this table. One of them are going to lay their head upon the chest of Christ during this meal. One of them is going to make a statement in his pride about how he would never deny Christ, and he is going to.

It's the matter of hours. The other disciples who are sitting there with him and enjoying it, the ones that he had washed their feet, they are going to scatter as he goes to the cross.

And then one of them is sitting there who is considering what he might do with all the money that he gets for betraying Jesus. And Jesus knows who's at the table.

He knows all that is going to come. And Jesus completely knew who was at the table, and he also knows completely who was in the room today. He knows all of this, and he says that with great desire, he wants to have this meal, and that he is going to suffer.

[15 : 20] You and I could never possibly be loved any greater because there's no greater expression of love possible. For a person that sees completely all those around the table, and he knows our sin, he knows our weakness, he knows the ways that we will act unloving towards him, he knows the ways we'll act in shame towards him, and there's nothing that can't be known by him about us.

And he still says, with desire, I desire to have this meal with you, and then I'm going to suffer. And so if you'll just let this resonate in your soul for a moment, just for a moment, because what Jesus is emphasizing is his earnest desire for this event.

We have no idea how much he loves you. We really don't. Think for a moment about the things that you most want no one to know about you. The shame, the disgrace, the sin, the humiliation that you most want no one to know.

And Christian, your Savior said to the Father, I want to bear that sin for them. I want to bear that sin upon the cross. He knew completely, he prepared, and he said, with desire, I desire to have this meal before I suffer.

And then verses 18 and 19, there's a change. I told you for 1,500 years, Passover meal was laid out in Exodus very clearly of how it needs to be done. John and Peter had seen it done every year of their life.

[16 : 42] But then verses 18 and 19, there's a break and what was happening. Paul gives us more details about it. In 1 Corinthians 11, 23 and 24, it says that he received this information from the Lord.

And then he says the same thing that Jesus says to his disciples about he takes the bread and he breaks it and he says, this is my body, which is broken for you, this meal in remembrance.

An example that is given for us among that night, as Jesus will go past the Passover, he will end the final Passover, that they've ever seen, that will ever need to be had because he is the ultimate sacrifice.

And then from there, he will take the bread and he will break it. And he'll say, this is my body, which is given for you, this meal in remembrance. And so he prepared the meal and now he's going to prepare the disciples.

He's telling them that death is tomorrow and that he will be the sacrifice for sin. His broken body will be the sacrifice the entire Old Testament has been pointing to.

[17 : 43] that everything that they had ever known about the sacrificial lamb, the one that would bear their griefs, that would carry their sorrows, the one that would esteem to be stricken, smitten of God and afflicted, that would be wounded by our transgressions, all the passages that they would have read in Isaiah.

He's saying, tomorrow, when you see me hanging from a cross, that instrument of death for the cursed, know that I will not be a victim of the Romans. I will be the lamb of God sent to take away the sins of the world.

I will be a substitute for your sins. I will bear your sins and that's what I will be doing on your behalf. And he has built it in through their understanding, story after story, throughout the Bible, from Genesis to this time, he showed that there had to be a sacrifice for their sins.

And so please do not miss this. We are given an even fuller picture. History tells us that it was common in the days after the resurrection and the decades to come that a common passage of people that would be preaching would have been from Exodus 19 about the final Passover lamb.

History is filled with messages where people were making that connection. It isn't just some creative sermon series that some pastor could have done, but in the Bible it gets highlighted for us that we should see Jesus at this last supper as the Passover prepared for us.

[19 : 03] So the Scriptures give us three life-giving truths all throughout the New Testament that are going to be seen time and time again. One of them is this. Jesus is the Passover lamb given for the redemption of his people.

When Jesus walks and John the Baptist first sees him in John chapter number 1 and he says, what does he say? You know what it says. Behold the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

Jesus as the redemption for the people. Also we see that Jesus is the substitutionary sacrifice on behalf of them for the forgiveness of their sins.

Galatians. Christ has redeemed us. 3.13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree.

Jesus is the substitutionary sacrifice on our behalf to be forgiven of our sins. The cross was a place for the curse. The cross out he was going to be crucified in our place.

[20 : 06] And then the third point is Jesus willingly and lovingly died in our place. And that's what we saw with desire I have desire to eat this Passover. He is our redemption he is our substitutionary sacrifice and he willingly and lovingly died for us.

So as he finishes that last Passover meal he teaches his disciples something new. And just like they've had 1500 years of doing the Passover meal now us the church has had 2000 years of taking the Lord's supper together taking being at the Lord's table together 2000 years of history and what does he do?

He gives teaching at that time which is to remind when you do this do this in remembrance when you take this remember the blood that was shed for you when you do this remember the bread that is broken for you and he continued doesn't tell us how often do it but it says every time or as often as you do this do this in remembrance of me just like he was clear all throughout the Old Testament and showing the picture that we needed a sacrifice to die for us in our place at the Lord's table we're reminded of it the same so we've had 2000 years and now you're also going to get 21 days in 21 days as we get ready for Easter on the night of April 2nd I'm going to invite you to the Lord's table to the breaking of bread and I want us to have this time together as it was given to us by Jesus to his disciples and I like to give some practical preparation often times I would share this information with you on the same night that we're going to take the Lord's Supper and there would be preparation but I want you to take the next three weeks as we head in the Easter and I want you to prepare your hearts

I want you to prepare parents in here I want you to prepare your children and I want you to get a few things some practical preparation I want us to be clear in our terms I want you to know that when we take the Lord's Supper there is no sacrifice the final sacrifice has been made Jesus Christ is the final and ultimate sacrifice so we're not meeting for a sacrifice we're meeting to remember the sacrifice that is made we don't refer to it as a sacrament I don't the word often as it's used as common means that that a priest is involved and that they're bestowing grace upon you as a means of working towards your salvation why wouldn't I and Greg and Pastor Boaz and others and the deacons as we will distribute that day we are not priests that are giving out the grace of God on that day we are fellow believers and fellow members of a church taking place in something that was given to us by Jesus we don't use the term Eucharist that also refers to a feast of gratitude probably a very good word but that expression often refers to bestowing grace what is often called in our world is an ordinance

Jesus gave an ordinance to the church to maintain he says I'm going to give this to you as a church I'm going to give you baptism I'm going to give you Lord's Supper you know the Cornwell's don't have we don't have baptisms at our house we don't take the Lord's Supper at our house because it isn't something that's given to me it's something given to me to take with you as a church family as a church we will do this in the church in the book of Acts the early church this was the expression in Acts 27 verse 7 and upon the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread Paul preached unto them ready to depart on the morrow and continue the speech unto midnight everyone would have known at the time what it meant by the breaking of bread in 1 Corinthians 10 21 it says you can't drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of the devil cannot be partakers of the Lord's table and the table of devils so you have the breaking of bread and you have the Lord's table and I would like for you to know and use that expression it's so much more warm than the word ordinance right the word that the

[24 : 12] Bible would use is that the Lord's table and the breaking of bread in 21 days I'm going to invite you to break bread I'm going to invite you to the Lord's table and this meeting at this table has a specific and designed purpose we do this in remembrance of Christ the sacrifice for our sins baptism Lord's supper is a means in which God has given us in which helps us protect and have an understanding of the gospel the nation of Israel had festival and holiday and time after time they had oral stories being shared with them and they're constantly being reminded of them of what they would need to maintain and keep and help people have an understanding that there needed to be a sacrifice for sins well God has given us the church this ordinance and this command that we would continue and so that all that are watching on from the youngest to the oldest those that grew up in church and outside when they see us come together they will see a clear picture of the fact that we believe that Jesus

Christ has died in our place and as a church we often we invite those that are with us if you have family that's visiting with you and they're a member of a church and they've been saved and they've been baptized and they're living obedience to the Lord and they're visiting we'll often invite them to join us in the Lord's Supper on the day that they are here with us however it's given to us as a special occasion for us as a church family that's who is supposed to take the Lord's Supper together it unifies us together around this common confession that Jesus is the Christ it says that we're living in this together and we remember the cross so I'd like to give you some practical application if you're here with us and you're considering joining the church would you make a decision and maybe ask the questions and so that in 21 days from now if this is a church that you should be a member of that you would come and hear them and we would have known your testimony somebody would be at the next steps table today and as somebody joins their church we want to hear their testimony we can do this through video you can do this through a life group you can do this when meeting with a group of people but it's important to us that we have a saved baptized membership because that's what

Christ has commanded of us it also encourage you if you haven't been baptized if you put your faith and trust in Christ but you've never followed with baptism that is the next step that Christ has for you I don't know in here today what many of your next steps are but if you're saved and you haven't been baptized I know what your next step is it's clearly outlined for us and we would love to help you so we have 21 days and so that's a way that some of you may need to get prepared as we will meet at the Lord's table on April 2nd in the evening service for a time of worship about the cross and a time of remembrance but there's a personal preparation for all of us as I said Paul said that he got his teaching directly from the Lord when it comes to the Lord's supper and he says in 1 Corinthians 11 28 it says but let a man examine himself and so let him eat of the bread and drink of that cup and so it tells us that when we come together at the Lord's table and all of us would come and it would be set up here heart not on the night of that event but in advance over the next 21 days and we don't find that there's ever any kind of reference to self barring yourself from the table which is to say if you know something that's in your life that needs to be dealt with then deal with it don't just skip out and say well I'm just not going to take the

Lord's supper maybe I'll be ready for the next one that would be a shame there's no reason for that to be the case and so deal with the matters in your life that would prevent you from coming to the table in this examination process we should look at our lives just a few things practically here we should look at it vertically horizontally internally and externally I'll explain this to you vertically means we examine our relationship with God are we walking with God do we see a separation from sin are we partaking of the table of the devil and the Lord's table are there things in our life that are not becoming that are not fit for a Christian and we need to ask for forgiveness we need to repent we need to go to him and we need to examine our heart be like the psalmist David cry out to God and say God search my heart the horizontal examination do we find any division between us and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ that we are told that we ought to be living peaceably among one another there's unforgiveness there's bitterness there's problems among us that we need to address those things before we come to the

Lord's table and what a gracious gift that God would give us that we would say that we want to keep short accounts so that when we come to this table we will be in one heart this internal examination unconfessed sin idols of the heart private sins that keep hidden from the public that examining that I spoke about just not vertically our relationship but internally ask him to look then externally do you find anything that's preventing you from living out the covenant that you've made with this church to share the message of Christ and so we consider that over the next 21 days I'm calling unto you Vision Baptist Church that would examine our hearts and we would prepare and we would come to the Lord's table and we would follow in it as Jesus gave to his disciples and we would celebrate this final Passover lamb that was sacrificed for us and we would do it in such a way that our kids would understand what's going on that the unbelieving world would see what was happening among us I want to challenge you to do that today we saw recorded just a beautiful story

[30 : 04] I was overwhelmed by it as I just saw these two different stories coming together as the preparation was made for the meal but now Judas is over here making preparation for the death of Christ and they come together believers we should always be moved with this expression of love and just like John and Peter we should be looking to Jesus and asking what is next when we follow him I would encourage you to take this time to ask him to examine your heart would you mind praying with me today as we will pray believers maybe you'd recognize the day that your heart is as it's being examined that it's weighed it's weighed and it's found wanting believers in here would you speak to the Lord Kristen begins to play the piano would you speak to him would you respond to the word in a way that would be correct and right do that examination vertically horizontally eternally and externally that should examine your heart and consider what Christ has done on your behalf and ask him over the next two to one days what are the areas in which he would want to address in our lives what steps should we take if you're a believer in here today and you have decisions that you need to make about being part of this church family

I pray that you will pray that you'll do the research that you need and ask the questions but you'll make a spiritual decision and that you'll join us at the Lord's table on that day but as believers are in here praying and speaking to the Lord and he's speaking with them and they're examining their heart I'd ask in here the day that maybe you would say that your heart has been weighed and found wanting and as you would examine your heart that you would see that though you're not like Judas you know that you have no true love for the one who died for you that your affections aren't given to him he's not the Lord of your life that this story of the cross it's might as well just be a fairy tale to you because it has no personal implications to your life I would like to ask you the day would you consider the claims that Jesus has made upon your life and would you obediently submit yourself today repent of your sins and call upon him to be

Lord several in here many did this at a young age some did as adults but it all comes as the Holy Spirit works in your life and maybe you would recognize the day the work of the Holy Spirit and there in your seat you would pray to him you would ask him to forgive you of your sins he will do so that you put your faith in him that he is the one that has died for your sins and that you recognize that today that you want to be part of the believers who take this message to the ends of the world Heavenly Father I pray for all those that are in attendance today Lord you know our hearts as you knew those that were around the table you know those that are around this room today and you know the decisions that need to be made Lord some of us may be like those disciples where we are going to scatter in a few days Lord because we just become ashamed and we're scared Lord maybe some in here today they're just full of pride and they need to recognize that just as Peter was unprepared maybe they're unprepared for the temptations that are coming this week

Father if there's any among us today that have not put their faith and trust in you Lord I pray that today will be the day of salvation Lord I'm so grateful for this group that we get to continue with and knowing and celebrating the cross in Jesus name I pray Amen