

20250914 The Table of the Covenant - Ps Bijoy

Mark 14:12-25

The passage before us is one of the most important moments in all of Scripture. It is the evening of Passover. The shadow of the cross is already falling across the disciples. Jesus gathers with them for His final meal before His crucifixion. What He says and does in this moment is not ordinary. It is covenantal. It is sacrificial. It is eschatological.

The Passover Prepared: Redemption in the Plan of God

The passage begins with preparation. The disciples ask, where will you have us go and prepare for you to eat the Passover? Jesus sends them into the city. He tells them they will meet a man carrying a jar of water. They are to follow him. The man will lead them to a house with a large upper room furnished and ready. There they are to prepare the Passover.

This detail may seem ordinary. Yet nothing is ordinary here. God is ordering every step. Just as Israel's first exodus from Egypt was not accidental, so this greater exodus is unfolding according to the eternal plan of God. The bread and the lamb and the wine and the bitter herbs are not random. They are rehearsals written into history to point forward to this night.

For centuries Israel celebrated the Passover to remember the blood on the doorposts that spared them from judgment. Now the true Passover Lamb (Jesus) is present and His blood truly covers sin is about to be offered. The preparation of the meal shows us the certainty of redemption.

When we come to the table of the Lord, we are reminded that our salvation is not by chance. It is not a last minute rescue. It is the work of God who planned before the foundation of the world to redeem a people through the blood of His Son.

As they recline at the table, Jesus announces that one of the twelve will betray Him. The room is filled with sorrow. Each disciple asks, Is it I? Jesus makes clear that the betrayer is among them. He is dipping bread into the bowl with Him.

This moment shows us the depth of human sin and even in the presence of perfect love, betrayal rises in the human heart. Yet even here, Jesus continues to extend bread. The very hand that will hand Him over to death is allowed to share His table and that is grace. Judas's presence at the table shows us that being physically near to Christ, even participating in outward rituals, does not guarantee saving faith. It is possible to sit at the Lord's Table and not belong to the Lord. Proximity does not equal possession. That this is why the Supper calls for self examination. Paul later says in 1 Corinthians 11, Let a person examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. Communion is not for the careless or presumptuous. It is for those who approach in humility, aware of their need for grace.

When we come to the Lord's Table, we are reminded that our salvation is not accidental. God prepared it before the foundation of the world. The preparation of the Passover reminds us that our redemption is secure because it rests in the sovereign will of God.

The Bread Broken: The Body of the Lord

Mark tells us that while they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, Take, eat; this is my body.

These four actions are filled with meaning. He took. He blessed. He broke. He gave. These are the actions of redemption. They show us what Christ has come to do. He took the form of a Human. He blesses God in thanksgiving. He is broken on the cross. He gives Himself to His people.

The bread is not just food for the body. It is a sign of His body given for us. The bread tells us that salvation is not an idea. It is not a feeling. It is a real sacrifice in history. The Son of God truly took on flesh. He truly lived among us. He truly gave Himself to death.

When we take the bread, we are reminded that Christ is the Bread of Life. We live not by our own strength but by feeding on Him by faith. We are reminded that His body was given to bear our sins and to carry our sorrows.

The breaking of the bread shows us the cost of redemption. The Savior was broken so that we might be made whole. The one who knew no sin became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God.

The Cup Shared: The Blood of the Covenant

Then Jesus takes the cup. He gives thanks. He gives it to them. They all drink from it. He says, this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.

These words echo the book of Exodus. When Moses confirmed the covenant at Mount Sinai, he sprinkled the people with the blood of sacrifice and said, Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you. That covenant was sealed with the blood of animals. This covenant is sealed with the blood of Christ.

Notice the words, poured out for many. The death of Christ is substitution. He dies not for Himself but for others. He dies for the many who believe in Him. He drinks the cup of wrath so that His people may drink the cup of blessing. He is cut off so that we might be brought near.

When we drink the cup, we proclaim that our sins are forgiven by His blood. We remember that we are no longer under wrath but under grace. We confess that the covenant of God is sealed forever, not by our faithfulness, but by the blood of Christ shed once for all.

The Future Feast: The Kingdom to Come

After the cup, Jesus speaks of the future. Truly I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

The Lord's Supper does not only look back to the cross. It also looks forward to the kingdom. It is a meal of memory and a meal of hope. It is a table that reminds us of what has been accomplished and points us to what is coming.

This present table is a foretaste of the great feast to come. It is a sign that history is moving toward a banquet, the marriage supper of the Lamb. The bread and cup are small now, but they point forward to abundance. The meal is quiet now, but it points forward to joy beyond measure.

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Until He comes. That is the hope. That is the promise. That is the direction of our faith.

Conclusion

The preparation shows us the certainty of redemption in the sovereign plan of God. The betrayal reminds us of the depth of sin and the greatness of grace. The bread tells us of the body of Christ given for us. The cup declares the blood of the covenant poured out for many. The final words of Jesus turn our eyes toward the kingdom to come.

What do we do with this truth? We come to the table with reverence. We come with repentance. We come with faith. We come with thanksgiving. We come not because we are worthy, but because He has made us welcome.

Here is the gospel at the table. Christ died for sinners. Christ has sealed the covenant with His blood. Christ is coming again to feast with His people.

So let us draw near. Let us examine ourselves. Let us take and eat. Let us take and drink. Let us proclaim His death until He comes.