

The Last Passover

Matthew 26:17-30 - NCBC, September 12, 2021

Main Point: **Jesus prepared to die in your place.**

- At the perfect time (17-19)
- To fulfill the Scriptures (20-25)
- For the forgiveness of your sins (26-30)

Communion: **Eat, Drink, and Respond in faith to all that Jesus did for you!**

- Look Backward and Remember (1 Corinthians 5:7)
- Look Forward and Revel (Matthew 26:29; John 6:51)
- Look Inward and Repent (1 Corinthians 5:8; 11:27-32)
- Look Upward and Rejoice (Hebrews 10:12-14, 19-23)
- Look Around and Relate (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)
- Look Outward and Proclaim (1 Corinthians 11:26)

Opening Announcements:

- **Newcomer's Breakfast today at 9:30a** in the Intersection Building. If you've never attended one of these, you are invited to come and learn more about New Castle and interact with some of our church leaders.
- **Exit Offering today for Community Bible Church** in Cut Off, LA, which was significantly harmed by Hurricane Ida.

<<O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer>>



May all our days bring glory to Jesus. What a great prayer to sing out together as we prepare to hear God's Word now.

Our study of **the Gospel of Matthew** has brought us to Thursday evening ... the last night before Jesus' death, as we open our Bibles to **Matthew 26, verses 17-30.**



If you need a Bible, simply raise your hand and we will gladly give you one as our gift to you today.

Today we get to celebrate the Lord's Supper. And this is very fitting since our celebration of communion was

instituted by Jesus right here in **Matthew chapter 26**.

It's also a fitting weekend for us to take communion since yesterday was a national day of remembering the 9-11 attacks on our country 20 years ago. So many lives were lost 20 years ago, and so much changed for us afterward. When we look back and remember these evil attacks, we are right to grieve. We ought to pray for God's grace to work in and through us for His glory and peace in our communities and nation.

Somewhat like 9-11, communion also causes us to look back and remember. Because as we eat and drink today we remember Jesus' sacrifice for us nearly 2,000 years ago. But today our hearts aren't overcome by grief; rather we rejoice and celebrate! For Jesus died and rose again to forgive our sins and give us life with God forever!



Let's quickly review what we've already learned from **chapter 26**. The Jewish leaders and Judas are now actively planning to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him. They decide to wait until after the Feast of Unleavened Bread to avoid any riots from the people.¹

The first part of **chapter 26** included a powerful flashback to several days earlier when Mary had acted by faith in Jesus' words and anointed Him for burial with a very expensive perfume.

So now Jesus and His disciples are in Jerusalem to observe the Passover. It's Thursday morning...the day that Jews from Galilee begin their Passover celebrations. So let's stand together in honor of the reading of God's Word, as I read from **Matthew 26**, starting in **verse 17**.

17 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" 18 He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.' " 19 And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

20 When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. 21 And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." 22 And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" 23 He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. 24 The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." 25 Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

26 Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said,

¹ Matthew 26:3-5

“Take, eat; this is my body.”²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you,²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

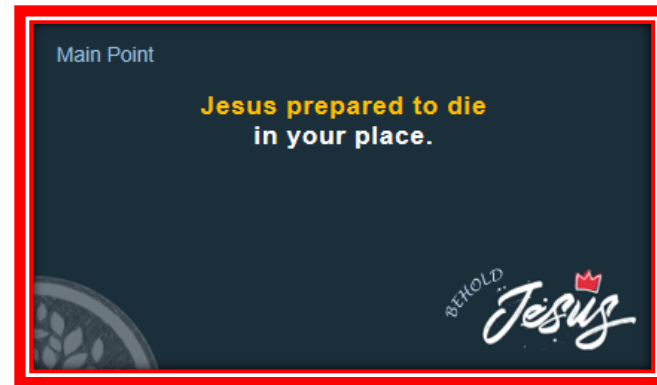
This is the reading of God’s Word. Please be seated.

Let’s pray.

Today’s sermon has two parts to it. First, I want to walk you through the text, and make sure you understand what God’s Word is teaching. Then we will respond by taking communion together. This ending to the message will be very practical, as I want to make sure we understand how God wants us to look at the Lord’s Supper together.

But before we talk through God’s design for our participation in this feast of remembrance, let’s first consider what actually happened during the last Passover in God’s history.

After all, the main point of **verses 17-30** is appropriately summarized as,



Jesus prepared to die in your place.

This Scripture makes it abundantly clear. Jesus’ death was no accident, failure, or defeat. As you read this text, you will notice that Jesus is in complete control. He’s working God’s plan. Contrary to all the deceitful scheming of the Jewish leaders and Judas, Jesus is putting everything in place so that He can die for sinners like you and me. The cross was always His plan,² and on this last Thursday night before His death, Jesus was preparing to die at the appointed time to fulfill Scripture and bring about the forgiveness of our sins.

Have you ever made extensive preparations for something? Maybe it’s a significant trip? Or a medical procedure? Or a national championship? What are you usually doing the night before the big event? You are probably double-checking all your arrangements and reviewing the plans, right?

So just pause for a moment and think about this: Jesus *prepared* to die for you. He put careful planning into this.

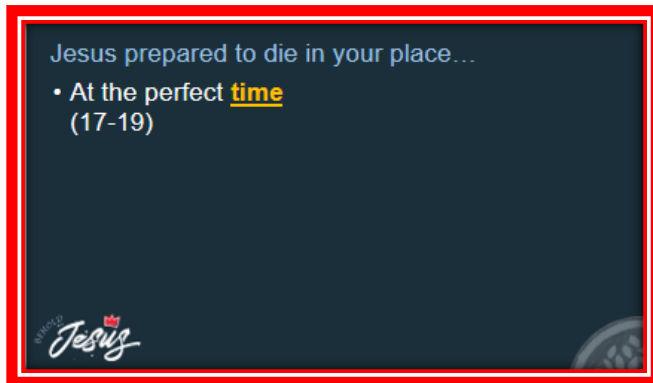
² Matthew 1:21; 12:40; 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-20; 26:2; c.f. Acts 2:23

Why? Because He loved you and wanted to deliver you from sin's deceitful slavery.

But why did Jesus love you? After all, neither you nor I ever did anything to deserve such sacrificial love. We've only rebelled and raged against His love in our pride.

But listen: Jesus loved sinners like us ultimately to reveal God's glory. His real and sacrificial love for sinners like me and you broadcasts God's grace and gives irrefutable testimony to the worth and wonder of our God!

So make no mistake about it. King Jesus is not a victim.³ **Matthew 26** shows Jesus making careful preparations for His death which He made sure would happen,



At the perfect time.

If you write in your Bible, you may want to underline that little phrase in the middle of **verse 18**: *My time is at hand*.

³ John 10:18

⁴ Exodus 2:23-25

Jesus knew that contrary to the wishes of the Jewish leaders who didn't want Jesus to die during the feast, He was going to die tomorrow, on Friday, exactly at 3pm when the Passover Lambs were being sacrificed in the temple for the Jews from Southern Israel.

So notice how Jesus uses vague instructions to even hide the exact location of their Passover meal from Judas in **verse 18**, thereby keeping Judas from being able to preempt God's appointed time for His arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

You see, **verse 17** reminds us that Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Do you remember the history behind the Jewish Passover?

Remember God's people were living under harsh slavery in Egypt.⁴ God sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh to ask him to let His people go, but Pharaoh refused.⁵ So God sent 10 plagues upon Egypt to destroy their nation before taking His people out in the exodus.

And the last plague was death. Every first-born child in Egypt died the night before God delivered His people.⁶ Except for those who believed God's words, and sacrificed a lamb, and painted their doorways with blood.

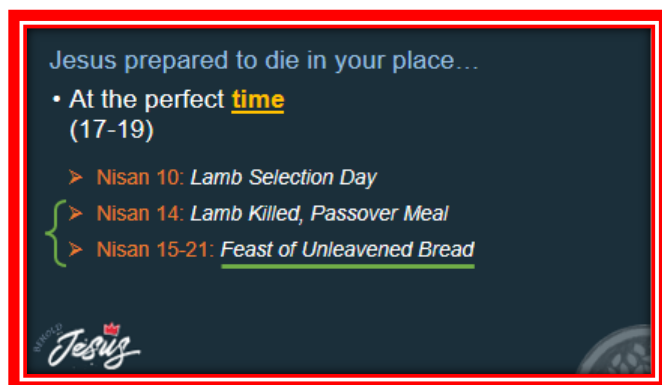
For in **Exodus 12:13** God told His people,

When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall befall you to destroy you, which I strike the land of Egypt.

⁵ Exodus 7-12

⁶ Exodus 12:29-32

Exodus 12 then instituted the Passover as an annual memorial feast.



According to **Exodus 12**, every year during the month Nisan,⁷ God's people were supposed to remember how they were spared death through a lamb's blood covering.

On the 10th day of the month, every family selected their Passover lamb.⁸ On the 14th, this lamb would be taken to the temple between the hours of 3 and 5pm to be slain by the priests. Then the meat would be brought back to the family for the Passover meal later that night, where a liturgical feast would recount how God had delivered His people from slavery, and brought them through the bitter wilderness, to restore them to their promised land. The following 7 days would then be the feast of Unleavened Bread, where the people would remove all yeast from their diets in remembrance of how God saved His people from slavery in order to purify their lives from sin.⁹

⁷ The first month of the Jewish calendar was originally called Abib (I.e. Exodus 13:4, 23:15, 34:18; Deuteronomy 16:1), and the name was changed to Nisan after Babylonian captivity (I.e. Nehemiah 2:1; Esther 3:7). This month corresponds to Mid-March to Mid-April in our Gregorian calendar.

⁸ Exodus 12:3

⁹ Exodus 12:14-20

Notice in **verse 17** that the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were so linked together in the Jewish culture, that often these entire 8 days were just called the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

But the timetable of the Gospel accounts gets a bit confusing when you carefully study it.

Because the Scriptures are clear that Jesus died on Friday, around 3pm,¹⁰ since they had to take him off the cross early due to the Sabbath being the next day.¹¹ The Scriptures are also clear that Jesus died on Passover,¹² as God's Passover Lamb.¹³

So then why does **Matthew 26** so clearly teach that Jesus kept Passover on Thursday evening? How could Jesus eat the Passover on Thursday, and then be the Passover Lamb on Friday?

Well, although the answer is technical, I want to explain it briefly so that when you read your Bible you can have absolute confidence in its trustworthiness.

¹⁰ Matthew 27:45-50; Mark 15:33-37; Luke 23:44-46; John 19:28-30

¹¹ Mark 14:42; John 19:31, 42 "The day of preparation" refers to the day immediately before the Sabbath. C.f. Matthew 27:62, 28:1; Mark 16:1; and Luke 23:56

¹² John 18:28; 19:14

¹³ 1 Corinthians 5:7

Jesus prepared to die in your place...

- At the perfect **time** (17-19)
 - > Nisan 10: *Lamb Selection Day*
 - > Nisan 14: *Lamb Killed, Passover Meal*
 - > Nisan 15-21: *Feast of Unleavened Bread*

↑ ☀ ↓
North / South
Sunday / Mon
Thurs / Friday

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We must realize the Jews in the first century had two distinct ways of tracking time. The calendar of the Northern Jews, like those from Galilee where Jesus and His disciples lived, started each day at *sunrise* at 6am. But the Jews in the South, centered in Jerusalem, started each day at *sunset*, at 6pm.

And so while the Southern Jews said that Nisan 14 was on Friday, the Northern Jews said Nisan 14 was on Thursday. And Jerusalem willingly accommodated the Northern Jews who came to celebrate the Passover on Thursday. After all, it helped manage the huge crowds to have the Passover sacrifices split between both Thursday and Friday, depending on which calendar the people were operating under.

This helps explain how Jesus, operating under the northern calendar which started each day at sunrise, entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on Lamb Selection Day, and then ate the Passover Meal on Thursday evening, and then still died as the Passover Lamb for all of God's people on Friday.¹⁴

¹⁴ If you want to study more of the Chronology of the Gospel accounts and how each Gospel writer uses these two different calendars in their accounts, Page 6a of 15

All in God's perfect time! So don't miss the point: Jesus is determined to die exactly at the right time, as God's Passover lamb, to take away the sin of the world...

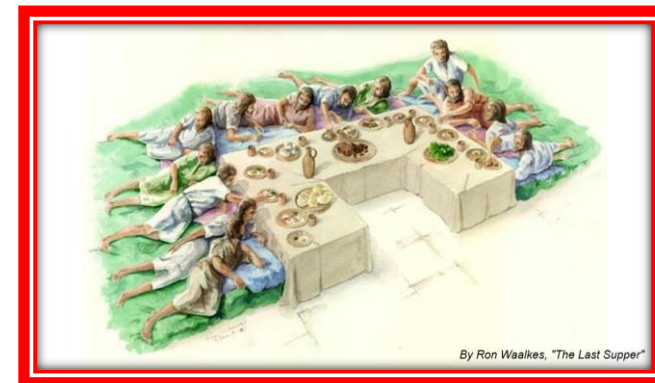
Jesus prepared to die in your place...

- At the perfect **time** (17-19)
- To fulfill the **Scriptures** (20-25)

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All to fulfill God's Scriptures.

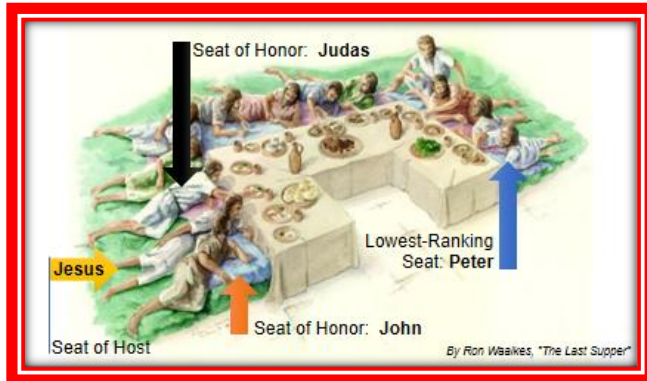
Verse 20 brings us directly into the upper room where Jesus is reclining at the Passover table with His disciples.



Now we must remember the last supper did not happen at a long wooden table with all the disciples facing Leonardo da Vinci. **Verse 20** makes it clear they were all

I'd recommend some of the resources I've provided on the back of your notes page for your further study.

reclining, which was very a typical way for Jews to eat together at a low U-shaped table.



Jesus, as the host of this Passover, would have likely been positioned at one of the ends, with two seats of honor on each side of Him. **John 13** helps us piece together that John and Judas were both occupying these seats of honor right next to Jesus, and Peter was likely across the table in the lowest-ranking seat.¹⁵

So put yourself in this story, as you read **verse 21**. Jesus had just washed the disciples feet,¹⁶ and then they had begun to walk through the Passover meal liturgy, recounting how God had delivered His people from Egypt's slavery...when Jesus interrupts and says,

"Truly I say to you, one of you will betray me."

Again, note the omniscience and perfect control of King Jesus on display. Judas' betrayal didn't catch Jesus off guard. Even though all the other disciples didn't know

that Judas had already sold his soul for 30 pieces of silver... Jesus knew.

In **verse 23** Jesus affirms this knowledge, saying,

He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me.

Since they had all dipped into the same dish of brownish paste made from finely ground apples, dates, and nuts that was supposed to represent the mud and clay that the Israelites had used to make bricks during their slavery, this didn't narrow it down to Judas yet.¹⁷

But then note carefully **verse 24**:

The Son of Man goes as it is written of Him...

Underline that phrase, "as it is written." Jesus is preparing to die to fulfill Scripture.

Jesus is likely referring to several Old Testament Scriptures here,¹⁸ but note His victorious tone even as He faces death in the face:

But woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed!

Jesus is King. Jesus wins in the end. It would have been better for Judas if he would have never been born.

¹⁵ John 13:23-27

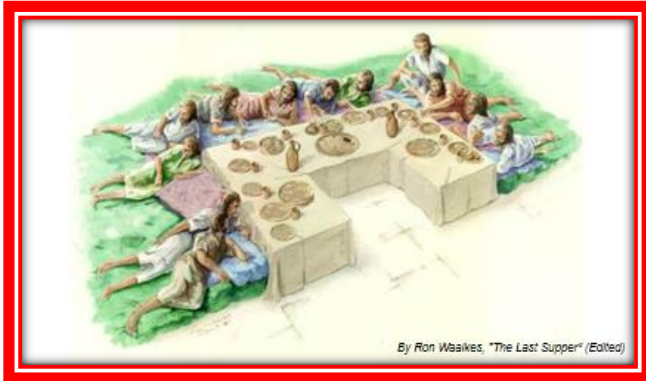
¹⁶ John 13:1-20

¹⁷ Instead, see **John 13:26** which suggests that Jesus only explicitly

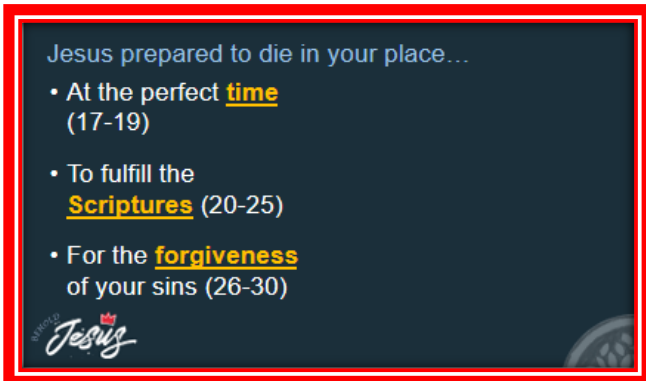
revealed that Judas was the betrayer to John in advance. (c.f. vv. 28-29)

¹⁸ I.e. Zechariah 13:7, 11:12-13; Psalm 22:1, 18; Isaiah 52-53; etc.

But even this strong warning isn't enough to deter Judas' evil intent as **verse 25** makes clear.



And so Judas leaves his seat of honor to go get the **authorities**, leaving Jesus to finish the Passover meal with His disciples. The Scriptures must be fulfilled. Jesus must die in the place of sinners. There must be a blood sacrifice that is more effective than bulls and goats to take away our sins. After all, the reason Jesus died in your place was,



¹⁹ This bread was referred to as the “bread of affliction” (Deuteronomy 16:3; Exodus 34:18).

²⁰ Exodus 13:3-10

For the **forgiveness** of your sins.

Jesus made the purpose of His death surprisingly clear as He continued to moderate the Passover meal for His friends.

Before the lamb was typically eaten during a Passover meal, the host would take some unleavened bread¹⁹...that was flat and crispy, and bless it with a prayer, and then break it and distribute the pieces among all the dinner guests to be eaten with fruits and herbs while he explained how God brought Israel out of Egypt's bitter affliction with a strong hand.²⁰

So in **verse 26**, the disciples would have been expecting Jesus to talk about how God delivered the nation of Israel from Egypt. But instead, Jesus surprisingly says,

Take, eat, this is my body.

This bread that represents the bitter affliction of our people in slavery... now represents me. When you eat this bread, you are sharing in my death. The bread of affliction represents me.

Now note that Jesus breaking the bread does not represent the breaking of His body, since no bones in Jesus' body were broken in fulfillment of the Passover Lamb requirements.²¹ Jesus broke the bread in order to distribute it and share it among all the disciples. He wanted them to understand that their redemption, or

²¹ John 19:36; Psalm 34:20; Exodus 12:46. Accordingly the best translations of 1 Corinthians 11:24 are “This is my body which is *for* you”, or “This is my body which is *given* you” rather than “This is my body

forgiveness from sin, would only come through sharing in His death.

Then, following the Passover tradition, Jesus took a cup, prayed a blessing, and said in **verse 27**,

Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

This must have shocked the disciples. A Jewish Passover would drink together four different times,



each time recounting one of the four promises of God in the Exodus from Exodus chapter 6.

More than likely, since this cup came after the distribution of the unleavened bread, Jesus was leading them in the drinking of the third cup...which was the Cup of Blessing focused on God's promise to redeem His people.

But instead of explaining how God redeemed the Israelites from Egypt, here Jesus tells all His disciples to drink... for drinking this cup represents receiving the blood that seals the new covenant of God.

You might underline that phrase, *for the forgiveness of sins*.

Biblical covenants are sealed with blood.²² And so now Jesus refers to the New Covenant promises of **Jeremiah 31** and **Ezekiel 36**,²³ where God promised to give His people new hearts freed from the slavery of sin.

Jesus is showing that He Himself is the ultimate Passover fulfillment. He is the Passover Lamb who saves people by His blood. He is the Covenant Keeper who seals people in His blood.

Then in **verse 29**, Jesus abruptly ends the Passover without drinking the 4th cup. Because the fourth cup of Consummation was all about God's promise to take His people as His forever bride. But Jesus knew He was going to have to drink the cup of God's wrath on the cross²⁴ before He would be able to drink the cup of consummation with the redeemed in the Millennial kingdom.

So they sang a hymn... probably **Psalm 118** if they were still following the Passover traditions, and then headed out to the Mount of Olives, where Jesus would pray in agony and eventually be arrested by the religious

which is *broken* for you.”

²² C.f. Genesis 8:20-22; 15:9-10, 17-21; Exodus 24:8

²³ Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Hebrews 10:1-18; c.f. Luke 22:20

and 1 Corinthians 11:25

²⁴ Matthew 20:22; 26:39, 42; cf. Psalm 75:8; Jeremiah 25:15; Isaiah 51:17; Revelation 14:9-10

authorities. But we'll have to wait until next week to get to that.

For now, simply see that Jesus prepared to die in your place, at the perfect time, to fulfill the Scriptures, for the forgiveness of your sins.

Now in respond I want to call us to:



Eat, Drink, and Respond in faith to all that Jesus did for you!

After all, the church is no longer called to celebrate Passover. **Matthew 26** was the very last Passover. Its purpose was fulfilled by pointing to the cross of Christ. The Lord's Supper, or communion as we call it now, is the only memorial festival for God's people today.

Therefore we must respond in faith to all that Jesus has done for us as we eat and drink.

And very quickly, here's six practical ways a heart of faith looks at the Lord's Supper:

First, communion calls us to,



Look Backward and Remember. Communion is a reminder that Jesus was our Passover Lamb, as **1 Corinthians 5:7** so clearly states. Jesus was sacrificed so that His blood would cover our sins, so that God's judgment would pass over us. If Jesus would not have died for you, we would all still be in our sins!

So are you believing that nothing but the blood of Jesus is protecting you from God's judgment?

Every time you celebrate communion, look backward, and remember, your sins are forgiven because of the blood covering of Jesus who is our Passover Lamb.

Second, communion is an opportunity to,



Look Forward and Revel or celebrate in what Jesus has done for you. The Lord's Supper is the only biblically-prescribed feast that the church regularly observes. Therefore it should be a time of joyful celebration and thanksgiving!

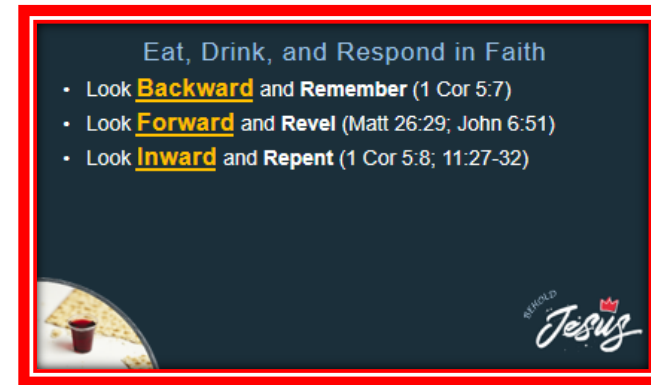
After all, the Scriptures are clear that,



Jesus' blood has redeemed us, and granted us **New Covenant blessings!** **Verse 29** promises that an eternal kingdom awaits all those who are covered by His blood. **John chapter 6** says that eternal life is the future for all who put their faith in the sacrificial death of Jesus for the forgiveness of sin.

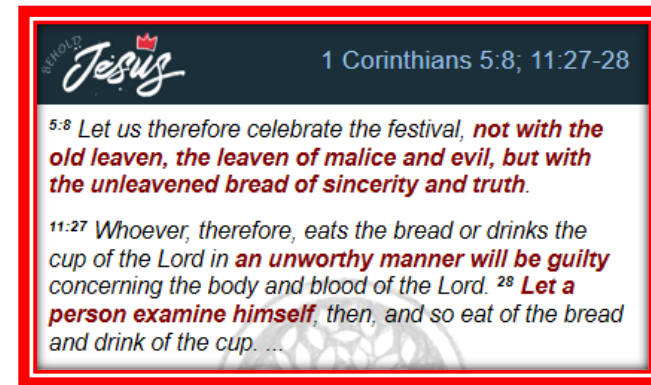
So even today, as we come to the table together, and you eat and drink and thereby express your union by faith in the death of Christ, celebrate in the covenant blessings that Christ's death has afforded to you!

Then,



Look Inward and Repent.

Communion calls us examine ourselves and repent of any pride or self-reliance that we are clinging to for our eternal hope.



In **1 Corinthians 5:8**, the apostle Paul refers to the Lord's supper as a festival, and calls us to *celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

In other words, every time we are reminded of Jesus' blood sacrifice for our forgiveness, it's a urgent call to live apart from that sin which He died for.

That's why **1 Corinthians 11** urges Christians to be careful to not take communion in an unworthy manner. Because if we just fell into mindless ritualism, or we were trusting in the ceremony itself to actually save us, or we came to the Lord's Supper with a stiff-necked and unrepentant heart, or we were refusing to pursue reconciliation with other believers... we would be eating and drinking apart from faith...and that would be spiritually destructive to our soul.

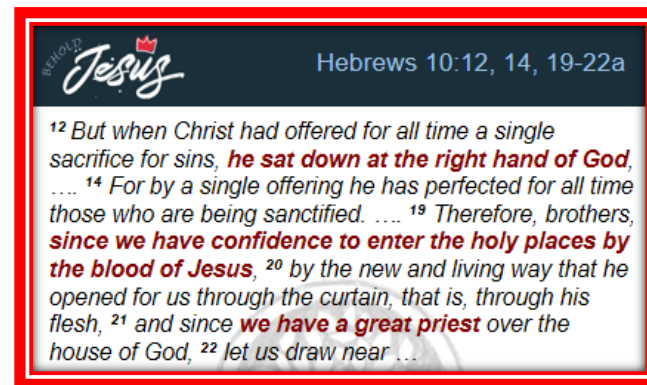
So whenever you take communion, use it as an opportunity to look backward and remember, to look forward and celebrate, to look inward and repent, but then,



Look Upward and Rejoice.

After all, faith doesn't look at our own sinfulness and wallow. Faith never is more focused on our sin that we are on Christ's atonement and blood covering for our sin. So Communion looks inward and repents, but then immediately looks upward and rejoices to see that we have a great High Priest in the heavens who lives daily to intercede for us!

Rejoice in the wonders that your Passover Lamb is also your High Priest, Church!



Hebrews 10 says it this way,

When Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God... for by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

Believer – this is such great news! No wonder we delight to feast together in communion!

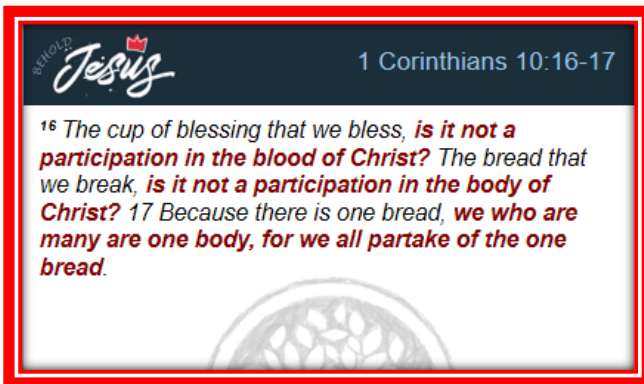
We have a great priest over the house of God, therefore we can draw to God!

But Communion is also a time when the heart of faith,



Looks Around and Relates with others who are also covered by the blood.

When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper in **Matthew 26**, it was inherently communal. *All* the disciples ate and drank. Because participating in the memorial is a picture of the spiritual participation of faith in Christ's death.



1 Corinthians 10 clearly teaches that the cup and bread of communion reminds us that we are all sharing in the same death of Christ together. The Lord's Supper thereby reminds God's people of the death of Christ which unites us all, and shields us all from God's judgment.



So the heart of faith uses Communion to look backward, look forward, look inward, look upward, look around, and finally, Look Outward and Proclaim.

1 Corinthians 11 verse 26 says

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

When we feast together, we are publicly proclaiming that our hope is not in what we have done. No, our salvation only comes through the death of Jesus on our behalf. God has done this, and we believe that His blood is covering our souls, and God's judgment will forever pass over us.

But communion also proclaims that we are waiting for Jesus' return when He comes back to take us all to be His eternal bride to dwell with Him forever.

So are you ready to eat and drink together this morning?
Do you see this festival with the eyes of faith?

If so, I'd invite you to prepare to eat the bread now. You should be able to peel back the top layer to just expose the cracker without yet opening the juice.

And again, let me remind you... when you are eating this bread by faith you are saying that Christ's death became your death. You are agreeing with God that when Jesus died, He died for you.

Let me pray a blessing now on the bread before we eat together.

PRAYER

Amen. Jesus said "take, eat, for this represents my body which was given for you." Let's eat together.

Now please carefully open your juice cup, as we prepare to drink together as we look backward, forward, inward, upward, around, and outward. O church... what a privilege it is to respond to all that Jesus has done for us in this act of faith together.

I'll pray a blessing upon the cup, before we drink it together.

PRAYER

Amen. Jesus said, "Drink of it, all of you, for this represents my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Amen. Church our band is going to come forward now to lead us in singing a hymn together before we depart. Just like the disciples sang a hymn after the first Lord's Supper, so likewise we want to as well. So as we sing

together, roll these lyrics over in your mind, and Look backward, forward, inward, upward, around and outward... and believe in all that Jesus has done to redeem and rescue you as your Passover Lamb.

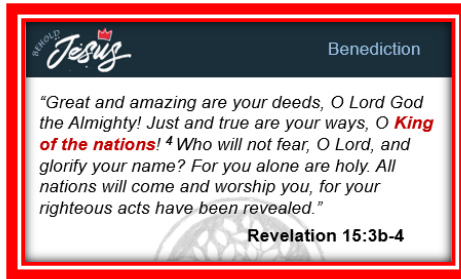


Let's stand and sing together.

<<Behold the Lamb>>

- (AFTER 1ST SERVICE ONLY) **Newcomer's Breakfast today at 9:30a** in the Intersection Building. If you've never attended one of these, you are invited to come and learn more about New Castle and interact with some of our church leaders.
- **Exit Offering today for Community Bible Church in Cut Off, LA**, which was significantly harmed by Hurricane Ida.

Let's pray our benediction together:



Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.
Revelation 15:3b-4

Recommended Resources on The Last Passover:

- Exodus 6:6-7; 12:1-28; 24:1-11
- Psalm 41:9
- Mark 14:12-31
- Luke 22:7-38
- John 6:26-58; 13:12-38
- Romans 3:21-26
- 1 Corinthians 5:7; 10:14-22; 11:23-32
- Hebrews 10:10-23
- 1 Peter 1:18-21; 2:21-23
- “The Festival of the Redeemed” sermon on Luke 22:14-20 preached 9/6/15
- “Hypocrisy Unmasked” sermon on John 13:21-30 preached 9/18/16
- *Lessons from the Upper Room*, Ferguson
- *The Darkness and the Glory*, Harris
- *The Harmony of the Gospels*, Thomas & Gundry
- *Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ*, Hoehner

Growing Deeper: Life Group Questions

1. Read Exodus 12:1-28. What did the Passover feast represent for God’s people? Why was a blood sacrifice required to avert God’s judgment? (c.f. Leviticus 17:11; Romans 6:23)
2. Review Matthew 26:17-19, 24, 31. How do Jesus’ instructions demonstrate His sovereign control over every aspect of the events leading up to His crucifixion? (c.f. Acts 2:23)
3. Review Matthew 26:21-25 and 31-35. What similarities and differences can you observe between the reactions of Judas and Peter to Jesus’ warnings?
4. Review Matthew 26:26-28. How did Jesus change the meaning of the Passover?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34. Why does the church celebrate communion today? What is the purpose of this celebration today? How do you prepare yourself to celebrate the Lord’s supper with your church family?