

2026-08-30

Just as It Is Written of Him

Mark 14:12-26

Mark 14:12 *“Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, ‘Where do You want us to go and prepare, that You may eat the Passover?’ And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, ‘Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him.’”* The two disciples Jesus sent out were Peter and John (Luke 22:8). Jesus and His disciples were staying in Bethany at night, which was about 2 miles away from the city of Jerusalem (John 11:18). They probably stayed in the home of Lazarus whom Jesus recently **raised from the dead** or in the home of Simon the leper. Maybe they divided up and some disciples stayed at each of the homes. For several days before the Passover, Jesus and His disciples would travel from Bethany to Jerusalem almost every day to teach in the Temple.

Now it was the first day of Unleavened Bread. *“On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord’s Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread”* (Leviticus 23: 5-6). Jews were not allowed to eat leavened bread for seven days. No leaven was to be found in the house at all. One of the things these two disciples did to prepare for the Passover meal was to make sure all leaven had been removed from the home. Even if the master of the house had the room cleaned, Peter and John would sweep and dust it again just to be sure it was clean. **Why no leaven?** During that first Passover in Egypt, the Hebrews had no time to wait and make provisions (Exodus 12:39). The strong hand of the Lord quickly brought the people out of Egypt, out of bondage. Unleavened bread would be their sign and reminder that God quickly brought His people out of slavery (13:7-9).

Peter and John were to go into Jerusalem. In the city a servant who was carrying a water pitcher would meet them. Usually, women carried the water pitchers. For this special occasion, Jesus probably had made prearrangements with the master of the house for a man to carry the water pitcher. Peter and John were to follow him. This was a private and secret meeting for Jesus and His twelve disciples. Jesus knew there were people looking for Him and looking for a way to arrest Him without making a big scene. Jesus took every precaution necessary to keep the devil from gaining any advantage. Jesus even knew of the plot from one of His disciples.

Verses 14-15 *“Wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?””*

Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished and prepared; there make ready for us.” Peter and John are not supposed to deal with the servant. This is too important of an occasion. They are to speak directly with the master of the house. We assume that since Jesus was in Jerusalem almost everyday for almost a week, He found time to speak with this master of the house directly to have a room ready for a Passover meal for Him and His disciples. At this point the fewer people that know about these prearrangements the better. Many Jews were looking to arrest Jesus.

Verses 16-17 *“So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover. In the evening He came with the twelve.”* Peter and John found everything just as Jesus had told them. It was customary for the master of the house to share their family’s Passover lamb with any and every guest in their home. Part of that preparation was the spreading of the lamb’s blood on the outside doorframe of the house. Why was this done? **The whole arrangement of the Passover meal was done so that every person of every generation felt as though they were taking part in the Exodus from Egypt.** From the blood on the doorframe, to the way they were dressed, to the food they eat, to the stories they told and the songs they sang, everything that was done, was done to help the Jews feel connected with their ancestors. As the twelve disciples arrived after dark, they would enter the house through the door that was circled in the blood of the lamb. During the evening of the original Passover meal, God brought the most devastating plague upon the Egyptians. Every firstborn child would die, and the firstborn of all their animals would die (Exodus 11:5). The only way to avoid death was to be in a house with the blood of the lamb on the doorframe and to share in the meal, eating the lamb that was slain (12:13). The meal could last up to four hours.

Every year in the spring the nation of Israel is supposed to celebrate the Passover. **The Passover was the most central act of the nation of Israel.** It was not to be forgotten. Every action of history that happened before the Passover was an action leading up to the Passover. From the call of Abraham to the birth and life of his son Isaac. From the struggles of Esau and Jacob to the sale of Joseph into slavery. From the famine throughout Egypt and Israel to the slavery of the Hebrews in Egypt. God brought all history together to the central act of the Passover. God wanted everyone to know and remember the Passover. God wanted every Jew and every person participating in the Passover to experience its significance. God personally performed miracles among His people to show His mighty power and the consequences of not following Him. God showed His people that the only way to avoid death was through the sacrifice of a perfect lamb. The 40 years after that first Passover, God personally led His people. He gave them His laws. He taught them the importance of sacrifice and the holiness of blood. The life of the flesh is in the

blood (Leviticus 17:11). God's forgiveness and atonement for our souls can only happen through a blood sacrifice. The whole sacrificial system was given to the Hebrews to help them understand the cost and importance of this blood sacrifice for redemption. God would teach His people that the animal sacrifices of lambs and goats and calves were not enough to provide complete and total forgiveness for human sin (Hebrews 10:4). He pointed through prophecy to the next coming act, **the most central act for the world**. The first act was the Passover. The second act was the sacrifice of God the Son, the only begotten of God. "*The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*" (John 1:29).

Verse 18 "*Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me.'*" Sometime during this 4 hour meal, after everyone had participated in the meal, Jesus makes this startling announcement. He tells them the truth. One of them would betray Jesus to death. These are the twelve apostles. These are the ones who have traveled with Jesus for 3 years. These are Jesus' friends. And one of them will betray Jesus. All the disciples realized that they had all eaten with Jesus. All the disciples thought, could they be the one, so each asked Jesus.

Verse 19 "*And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, 'Is it I?' And another said, 'Is it I?'"* After such a festive joyful time, the disciples became full of sorrow because of Jesus' declaration. One by one, they each asked Jesus, "*Is it I?*" The way the twelve disciples framed their question, the expected answer was, "Not me." It seems that none of the disciples suspected anyone among them would actually betray Jesus.

Verses 20-21 "*He answered and said to them, 'It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish. The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born.'*" It would have been interesting to sit with Jesus and the disciples and watch this whole process. We are not given a complete detailed picture of what happened that our minds want to know. There were bowls of Haroset, a paste made of diced apples, nuts, cinnamon and wine. It reminded the Hebrews of the mortar they used for building as slaves. During the meal people dipped their matzah into it and ate it. We might think of this as the chips and salsa on the table of a Mexican meal. More than likely all the disciples at some point during the meal had dipped a piece of matzah into it and ate it. The disciples were concerned, especially Peter. Peter motioned to John to ask Jesus who it was. Jesus replied to John, "*It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it.' And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon*" (John 13:26). **Just as it is written**, Jesus was betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9 / 55:12-14). Did Judas Iscariot

have a choice? Sure! Just because it was prophesied does not mean Judas had no choice. It just means that God knew what his choice was going to be. Judas made his choice before the meal began. He had already gone to the chief priest and made plans with those who wanted to kill Jesus (Mark 14:10-11). Could he change his mind? Yes, he could, but he did not. Because of his choices, his future is not pretty.

Verses 22-24 “*And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And He said to them, ‘This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many.’*” Jesus was speaking of His crucifixion. No longer did He want His followers and the nation of Israel to remember God’s redemption through the Passover. Jesus wanted everyone to remember God’s redemption through His sacrifice on the cross. All of history after the Passover had been moving toward the crucifixion of Jesus. Now it has come. Through the elements of unleavened bread and wine or grape juice we are to remember the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. The shedding of His blood, as the lamb of God takes away the sin of the world for all who believe (John 3:16). As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim our Lord’s death. How long are we to do this? Until God’s final act, the return of Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:26).

I believe Jesus is coming soon. God’s first act was the Passover. God’s second act was the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. **There is one final act coming.** God’s third and final act is the return of Jesus. He is coming when most people least expect Him. So, **what type of people are we to be?** Be holy in your conduct and be godly (2 Peter 3:11). “*Be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless*” (3:14). Do not be deceived. Endure hardships. Grow continually in God’s grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (3:15-18). Get ready. Be ready!

Questions to ask yourself: Have you confessed your sins? Have you trusted in Jesus as your Savior and Lord? Are you listening to God’s Spirit and following Him? Are you letting God use you to influence others for His kingdom?

Actions to take: Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth (Col 3:2). Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering and love (3:12).

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