



Passover & The Lord's Supper

Luke 22:1-30

Paul J. Bucknell

Luke 22:1-30

Intro (22:1-30) Plot (22:1-6) Preparation (22:7-13) Passover (22:14-23) Leadership (22:24-30)

Come and join Jesus' last supper on earth. The scene was tense and upsetting. Christ's clear mind, however, allowed Him during these desperate times to strengthen the others by establishing what is now called the Lord's Supper.

A) An Introduction (Gospel of Luke 22:1-30)

The whole redemptive calendar is about to start. The Passover and the Unleavened Bread start off the new Hebrew calendar each new year, but with Christ being sacrificed as the Passover Lamb, a whole new redemptive calendar was going to start and never end. This is the making of the kingdom of God.

The first three holidays speak of Christ's death, the New Covenant (blood on doorway) and the resurrection (Day of Firstfruits). Once the Day of Firstfruits was celebrated, Pentecost was surely to come fifty days afterwards as recorded in Acts 1-2. The fourth to sixth months are the indefinite months between Christ's first and second coming. The last three holidays speak of the final judgment and victory. The following months speak of the eternal life to come after Christ's return. This calendar provides an excellent overview of the schedule of events that matter most in the history of mankind.

This 'Last Supper,' then, becomes very significant because it initiated the whole redemptive calendar into ac-

Israel's Seven Biblical Holidays											
Month #1	Month #2	Month #3	Month #4	Month #5	Month #6	Month #7	Month #8	Month #9	Month #10	Month #11	Month #12
3 holi-days		1 holi-day				3 holi-days					
#1 Passover (1 - Nissan 14th) #2 Unleavened Bread (1 - Nissan 14-21) #3 Day of Firstfruits (1 - Nissan 16th)			#4 Day of Pentecost/Weeks (3-Sivan 6th)			#5 Feast of Trumpets (7-Tishri 1rst) #6 Day of Atonement (7-Tishri 10th) #7 Feast of Tabernacle/Booths (7-Tishri 15-21)					

tion. Once started, it would never end. As Jesus said, it was a new covenant in His blood (e.g. His death).

This is the reason Satan appeared on the scene. This was not his cronies, the demons, but Satan himself. It was a most tense time. The city of Jerusalem was throbbing with people getting ready for this national holiday. Important events require special preparations, and the ones mentioned in the following verses were no exception. Each focused on the same event, but from totally different perspectives. Let us now look at the four sections one by one.



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B.) Preparation for the Plot (Luke 22:1-6)

If Jesus must die, then there must be a means by which He dies. The Old Testament is quite clear on the fact that the Messiah must be denied including. It is showed that He is to be betrayed by His own (e.g. Joseph betrayed by brothers) and even the number of coins for a slave at the time of Jesus hundreds of years was stated beforehand (Zechariah 11:12-13).



Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, was approaching. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how they might put Him to death; for they were afraid of the people. And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve. And he went away and discussed with the chief priests and officers how he might betray Him to them. And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. And he consented, and began seeking a good opportunity to betray Him to them apart from the multitude (Luke 22:1-6).

We should note that Satan and not one of his demons entered Judas. This passage says much about Satan along with his techniques and purposes as well as the passage in Luke 22:31. We need not be over concerned with Satan's affect on our lives if we are in Christ. Satan was desiring to shake Peter (Simon), but Jesus did not allow a total shaking. There is a wonderful security in being in Christ. There are strong spiritual forces out there that only want to kill and destroy. In Christ, we can trust Him to care for us. Jesus promised to revive Peter after his fall.

◆ **The Bible Study Questions (Luke 22:1-6)**

- 1) What feasts were fast approaching in 22:1? Find them on the Redemptive Calendar.
- 2) How were they celebrated? Look at the details in Exodus 12-13.
- 3) What were the chief priests and scribes plotting to do (22:2)? Did they know that this was wrong? Why were they so intent on doing it?
- 4) What does Luke 22:3 say happened to Judas at that time? What does it mean? Can that happen to anyone (John 17:11-12)?
- 5) What did Judas secretly do behind Jesus' back (17:4-6)? What was the response of the chief priests and scribes? Why did Judas do what He did?

“For they were afraid of the people” (Luke 22:2).

◆ **The Application Questions (Luke 22:1-6)**

* Have you ever thought about doing something wrong? Did you plan for it? Did you carry it out? Why or why not?



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* What does 22:3 have to contribute to our understanding of Satan's influence over man? Can a man be possessed by an [evil spirit](#)? What happens to his 'free' will in these cases (see Ephesians 2:2-3).

◆ *A Summary (Luke 22:1-6)*

Perhaps out of all the disciples Judas Iscariot best understood and believed that Jesus would give up His life. This was too much for him. He wanted freedom from Rome, not a pacifist! Judas Iscariot wanted popularity and above all things more money. He left Jesus' camp and betrayed Him. He no doubt thought that Jesus was missing His great opportunity. Jesus could have got anything from the people but only talked about giving up the whole mission and dying.

This passage stirs us up to think about our true motives for serving Jesus. Do we want Jesus only to get things that we want or have we given up our agenda and decided to follow what God has planned for us? Now is the time to fully commit ourselves to the Lord that the enemy might not infiltrate our lives.



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Luke 22:7-13

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C.) Preparation for the Passover (22:7-13)

Jesus like a lamb allowed Himself to be prepared for what is the most memorable meal on earth.

Then came the first day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. And He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." And they said to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare it?" And He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house that he enters. "And you shall say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher says to you, "Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"'" "And he will show you a large, furnished, upper room; prepare it there." And they departed and found everything just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover (Luke 22:7-13).

Anyone who reads a lot of novels will find some special interest in the way Jesus does things in Luke 22:7-13. This passage stands out simply by the way so many verses talk about what happened. But not only this, the method is also highlighted (rather than just skipped over). Instead a rather queer method of finding a room to hold the Passover meal with his disciples is given by Jesus.

Traditional words said at Passover

"This is the bread of misery which our fathers ate in the land of Egypt. All that are hungry, come and eat; all that are needy, come, keep the Paschal" (The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah by Alfred Edersheim, p. 565).

◆ *The Bible Study Questions (Luke 22:7-13)*

- 1) What did Jesus send Peter and John to do (22:8-9)? Why was it important to celebrate the feast?
- 2) Explain more about what the original meaning for the Passover. Why did a lamb have need to be sacrificed (22:7)?
- 3) Repeat what Jesus told John and Peter. What was special about the arrangement for the feast (22:10-13)? Why do you think these instructions were so mysterious?

◆ *Application Study Questions (Luke 22:7-13)*

* Do you get anxious about how things might work out? Was Jesus? Were His disciples in this passage? Why or why not?

◆ *The Summary (Luke 22:7-13)*

The connection between this passage and the prior suggests that the main reason Jesus was so secretive was due to His knowledge of Judas' intention to betray Him. Jesus was not avoiding the chief priests murder plot through Judas as much as trying to postpone it so He could preserve the last intimate time with His disciples before His death.

If Judas knew earlier on where Jesus would hold the Passover, he would have told the chief priests and scribes. This would give them an opportunity away from all the crowds where the chief priests could quietly capture him. Remember that Jesus was, as far as they were concerned, daily agitating the Jerusalem crowds. He ur-



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gently had to be done away with. Without former knowledge of where Jesus held the Passover, however, Judas had no way of telling the chief priests where Jesus was. This no doubt was what they requested him.

Judas was looking for a good opportunity to leave the dinner and tell them. By the time the guards arrived with the chief priests to that house, Jesus would have already moved on. Jesus needed that time of prayer on the Mount of Olives. There is good reason to believe that the house was Mark's parents and that Mark secretly followed the guards to the Mount of Olives where they seized Jesus. He, off course, was caught offguard and fled naked (Mark 14:51).

As we read on in the next section, we will find that Jesus was preserving that special time with His disciples to give them their last preparations for the upcoming event that would shake every last one of them including brave Peter.



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D.) Celebrating the Passover (Luke 22:14-23)

Jesus again and again in this passage referred to His death. It was inevitable. The lamb had to be sacrificed. He was that lamb. His disciples just could not understand or grasp His meaning. They were so confident on His ability to bring in the new kingdom that they did not think much on how Jesus would do it. When they finally discovered that Jesus would be put to death, they would be shaken. Jesus knew this and all the more gathered His disciples together for this Last Supper in order to share many intimate things with them, especially after Judas Iscariot left.



And when the hour had come He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes." And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood. "But behold, the hand of the one betraying Me is with Me on the table. "For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!" And they began to discuss among themselves which one of them it might be who was going to do this thing (Luke 22:14-23, NASB).

Jesus, on the other hand, when thinking about all the Passover preparations, could only think about His life that was to be shortly given up. He most likely thought of Isaac's question many a year ago. "We have the wood and know where we will make the offering, but where is the offering?" Abraham, the father, simply said that God would provide. Jesus is the lamb that would be provided by the hand of our Heavenly Father ([Genesis 22](#)).

◆ The Bible Study Questions (Luke 22:14-23)

- 1) Who did Jesus celebrate the Passover with (22:14)? Why is the word 'table' in italics in verse 14?
- 2) What does apostle mean? When did Jesus first use the word 'apostle' in Luke (see Luke 6:13)?
- 3) Read aloud what Jesus first said at the feast (22:15-16). What were the significant statements in these verses? Explain the importance of the three below.
 - Earnestly desired
 - Before I suffer
 - Never again
- 4) What did Jesus reiterate in verses 17-18?



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- 5) Remember there was a set process they were to eat, talk and drink. Jesus interjected special at significant times during the Passover meal. What did Jesus do with the bread (22:19)? What did Jesus say about sharing the bread and again what is the significance of it?
- 6) What did Jesus do with the cup (22:20)? How is this connected to the historical significance of the Passover?
- 7) Explain the significance of Jesus' statement in 22:20, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood." Do you think the disciples understood this? Why or why not?
- 8) Why did Jesus mention the betrayer aloud (22:21-22)? Where and what is "going as it has been determined" found in the Old Testament?

"This is my body which is given for you" (Luke 22:19)

◆ *The Application Questions (Luke 22:14-23)*

- * What Jesus said at this meal will forever change Christianity. How so? Discuss how Christianity would be different without the Lord's Supper.
- * Explain the two parts of the Lord's Supper in as much detail that you can. Why are each important?
- * Here are some not so important questions about the Lord's Supper.
 - Why is it sometimes called 'Holy Communion'?
 - How often should one hold the Lord's Supper? One time a person who seemed to love the Lord stomped out of church when discovered that we held it once a month instead of two times a year.
 - Does it matter what kind of bread or wine/grape juice is used?
- * One of the big differences between parachurch organizations such as student groups and churches is that they do not have communion. What makes a church a church? Please discuss.

◆ *A Summary (Luke 22:14-23)*

The importance of what happened that night should not be trivialized. Although the 'Lord's Supper' seems like just another religious rite, it was strategically designed much like the Passover for the Old Testament Jews. The Lord's Supper at once reminds us of the past with the devotion and grace of Jesus who was willing to die for sinners as well as the future where all will be fully restored by what Christ has done for us. We are at once touched in our heart and re-envisioned for our future choices. No wonder Jesus wanted us to regularly celebrate it.

When we saw God's people carefully hold the Passover in the Old Testament, we saw a strong people of God. They were being renewed. So it is when God's people understand the full ramifications of Holy Communion. They are energized and focused on God's forgiving work. If we, however, like the Israelites with their Passover,



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refrain from peering deeper into the meaning of the Lord's supper, then it will remain to be just a ritual with little or no effect. The power of the cross will help us only as much as we reflect on its meaning.

Although this passage does not touch on the finer details of the new covenant such as justification by faith, we should recognize that He is establishing the time so that we can remind ourselves of these important details. "Do this in remembrance of me" is not just a living memorial, it is the very means by which Christ can invigorate His people by living in them.

We might think that the evening supper was an intimate time. It probably was in some ways. We should not forget, though, that evening there was infighting among the disciples. What were they fighting about? Who was the greatest? This is the subject of the next section in Luke 22:24-30.



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E.) Celebrating the Passover (22:24-30)

Everyone seems to want to lead and no one a follower. Jesus turned our thoughts about this subject around when He showed us what a true godly leader is like.

And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest. And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.' "But not so with you, but let him who is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as the servant. "For who is greater, the one who reclines at the table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at the table? But I am among you as the one who serves. "And you are those who have stood by Me in My trials; and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Luke 22:24-30, NASB).

◆ **The Bible Study Questions (Luke 22:24-30)**

- 1) How did the disciples' topic of conversation change in Luke 22:23? What did it change to in 22:24?
- 2) Describe that evening's conversation (22:24) as much as you can. Do you think the evil one was lurking about them too? Why or why not? (See Luke 22:31).
- 3) Why do people want to be great and noticed rather than unrecognized and unnoticed?
- 4) Jesus responded to their argument in 22:25-27 by highlighting one point at a time. What was Jesus' first point as found in 22:25? Are things like that now?
- 5) What does Jesus say must be true of His disciples (22:26)? How is this different than most people think?
- 6) Jesus amplifies this by an illustration. Explain this verse found in Luke 22:27.
- 7) Will these disciples be great? What will make them great? Note how Jesus addresses them. He does not tell them how they will all fail, but instead encourages them? How (22:28)?
- 8) What does Jesus talk about in 22:29-30? List the stated facts.
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- 9) Connect verse 28 and 30 along with verse 26. What is Jesus telling them? Can they be the greatest? What is the pathway to this leadership?



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“But not so with you, but let him who is the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as the servant” (Luke 22:26).

◆ *The Application Questions (Luke 22:24-30)*

* Should we criticize these the aspirations of these disciples? Did Jesus? What are your aspirations for the future after death? Would Jesus be pleased?

* How should we handle a competitive spirit? Relate your answer to what Jesus taught the disciples here in 24-30. Church divisions are most often caused due to rivalry. How are we to think and approach these situations?

* Think about the church you attend. What do you think of the leaders? What do others think? By which standard will these leaders be rewarded? Do you think those that are not gifted leaders can also be greatly rewarded? How so?

* Do you tend to compete with others for attention? What do you need to change about your perspective so that you really get the attention (good) of God?

◆ *A Summary (Luke 22:24-30)*

Scene after scene shows the absolute negative picture of Christ's work. One disciple betrays Him. The others fight over who is greater! These are the 'sent' ones (the apostles). Surely they needed the Holy Spirit to work in their lives. Jesus in the meantime had to keep looking to the Lord and not the circumstances which would have ripped apart His sanity in a moment.

The greatest leader would be like Christ. Jesus told them this but also would shortly show them how it worked on the cross. The cross is despised but it is the opportunity to give the greatest amount of help to others.

Jesus in the end encourages them. They have withstood a lot of criticism even up to this point. They will be greatly rewarded in the future. Jesus in the end encourages them. They have withstood a lot of criticism even up to this point. They will be greatly rewarded in the future. Luke 22:24-30 'A Lesson on Leadership' is the last of a five-part series on the Passover and the Last Supper. This last section not only shows the darkened circumstances about Christ but also shows the disciples the power of humble service. Jesus is showing them a greater way. They are to follow Him.