**The New Covenant in My Blood**

**The Word**

Read together Luke 22:7-30

**The Big Idea**

Jesus is the ultimate Passover lamb whose blood rescues us from the justice of God and forms us as his covenant partner. Though we continue to display very imperfect faithfulness, his covenant love for us remains firm and faithful to the end.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. How did considering Israel’s story of Passover, exodus, and covenant with God at Sinai enhance your understanding of what Jesus was saying and doing at that final meal with his disciples?

2. On Sunday we discussed Jesus’ love for (and even his liking of) his disciples. Consider his statement in v. 15: “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you.” How does the idea of Jesus not only loving you, but actually liking you and desiring fellowship with you impact you at this time in your life?

3. Read together Ephesians 5:25-27. On Sunday we discussed the fact that Jesus sees us in all our imperfections, but he also sees us in light of what we will one day be. How does that idea impact your relationship with Jesus now? And how does that idea impact your relationship with others now (friends, spouses, etc.)?

4. On Sunday we discussed Jesus’ covenant love for his very imperfect disciples that led him to offer his life as a sacrifice. Reflect together on the image shown on Sunday as well as what you see in Jesus from the passage: [Ecce Homo Georges Roualt](https://www.google.com/search?q=ecce+homo+rouault&client=firefox-b-1-d&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=dtg-f5hFIA3x7M%253A%252CoBW66jYqFq47eM%252C_&vet=1&usg=AI4_-kRmD75e8k9_aVGgvTXEuRuoyVEgBw&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjhwreO19LhAhURFXwKHeP-CRAQ9QEwAHoECAcQBA)

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Consider Jesus’ actions within the context of the Passover

A. God rescued Israel from slavery in Egypt through the 10th plague in which, through the blood of an unblemished lamb, the angel of the Lord “passed over” and spare the Israelites (Ex 12)

B. God formed a covenant with Israel at Sinai (Ex 19:4-5)

Israel became God’s covenant partner, his “treasured possession”

C. There was a covenant ceremony (Exodus 24:5-8)

Blood was sprinkled on the Israelites, purifying them and marking them as God’s covenant partner

D. Jesus takes this familiar Passover meal and imbues it with fresh meaning as he shows how it all points to him

1. He is the ultimate Passover lamb, the substitute, his blood instead of ours

2. His blood sprinkled on us (actually, we drink it symbolically in communion) purifies us and marks us as members of the new covenant

II. Consider the reality of who his disciples are

A. Judas’ betrayal (v. 21-23)

Judas was one of the 12 and looked no different than any of the others

B. Peter’s denial (v. 31-34)

Peter was arguably Jesus’ closest friend

C. The disciples argument about who is the greatest (v. 24)

They completely miss the essence of Jesus’ life and ministry

D. They are very imperfectly faithful to Jesus

E. Imperfectly faithful disciples are the only kind Jesus has ever had

1. Israel was very imperfectly faithful

2. The church has been very imperfectly faithful for 2000 years

3. We are very imperfectly faithful

-half-hearted, over confident, concerned with worldly values, denying obedience to pursue comforts, etc.

III. Consider Jesus’ heart for his imperfectly faithful disciples

A. I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you (v. 15)

B. Jesus is clearly not naïve to the reality of who his disciples are (v. 7-13 displays unusual foreknowledge)

C. Jesus sees them in all their imperfections, and he simply loves them anyways

1. He has a covenant love for them: loyal, faithful, steadfast, for better or worse

2. His love is patient, forgiving, and long suffering

3. Jesus loves us in all our imperfections, and he even likes us too

D. Jesus sees beyond the present to what will one day be

1. He views this Passover meal in light of the future meal he will share when his kingdom comes (v. 16, 18). His vision of that final glorious meal gives him joy even in the midst of this present imperfect meal

2. He views the disciples in light of who they will one day be (v. 29-30)

-He knows there will be a time when their sin and dullness of heart will be washed away and they will stand as great rulers in his kingdom

3. Jesus views us in light of what we will one day be

a. Sometimes we feel so stuck in old patterns, we can’t imagine ourselves as anything other than what we currently are. But he sees what we will one day be

b. Ephesians 5:25-27: Jesus purpose in rescuing us is to turn us into a people who one day will stand before him as a pure and radiant church. Our currently half-hearted devotion will burn white hot for him then. Our love affair with the world will be over. Our character will be perfectly shaped so that we are pure, loving, courageous, joyful people.

c. Phil 1:6: He who began a good work in you will by faithful to bring it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.