

Holy Week Devotions #5 - THURSDAY

THE PASSOVER MEAL

Remembering the Sacrificial Lamb

On the night that everything was going to begin to come to an end for Jesus' time here on earth, He sat down with His closest disciples and ate the Passover meal. This was typically a time of great celebration for the Jews. Yet, for Jesus, He knew that this would be His last meal with His beloved followers.

Together, Jesus and the Twelve remembered the time in which God had used the blood of an innocent lamb to save the Israelites from death. The sacrifice of an innocent allowed the people of God to escape His wrath against the Egyptians. Jesus also used this as a time to remind the disciples of sacrificing of one's self for the good of others. As He shared this lesson with them, He washed their feet.

Less than a day after this meal, Jesus would be hanging on the cross like a guilty criminal. He would be willingly sacrificing Himself, shedding His innocent blood, for the good of all mankind. Jesus would be the offering that would take away God's judgment on humanity.





*During **Passover**, the oldest continuously celebrated Jewish feast, Jewish people eat **matzos**, a flat, unleavened bread made of flour and water.*

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." **(Mark 14:22-25)**

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. **(John 13:2-5)**

1. **What does Jesus say this bread of this Passover meal represents?**

Why is that significant?

2. **What does Jesus say the drink of this Passover meal represents?**

Why is that significant?

3. This Passover meal represents both God's original covenant with the Israelites that they were His people and the new covenant, in which God sacrificed on His part so that man's sins would be forgiven once and for all. **Take a few moments today and think about the significance of this sacrifice.**

On Easter Sunday, the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection, as you take communion, remember this devotion and that Jesus' sacrifice for us offers us the opportunity to be made right with God.