

The Lord's Supper
The Lord's Sentence
The Lord's Sorrow and Suffering

Day 35 Monday
Jesus Celebrates Passover
with His Disciples

Matthew 26:17-19 NKJV

17 Now on the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?"

18 And 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 So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

Mark 14:12-16

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?”

13 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.

14 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?” ’

15 Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished and prepared; there make ready for us.”

16 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.

Luke 22:7-13

7 Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.

8 So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it.”

9 They said to him, “Where will you have us prepare it?”

10 He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters

11 and tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’

12 And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there.”

13 And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

Passover

Jesus had arranged to eat the Passover meal with His disciples. The Jewish holiday of Passover commemorates the exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. The Passover celebrated the Jews deliverance from Egypt when the angel of death passed over those who had blood on the doorpost and God “passed over” the houses of the Jews during the 10th plague on the Egyptians, the slaying of the first born. The holiday is ultimately a celebration of freedom and the story of the Jews exodus from Egypt.

Feast of Unleavened Bread

The Feast of Unleavened Bread celebrates the journey of the children of Israel through the wilderness, when following Passover and the Exodus, they ate unleavened bread for thirty days which then was substituted by the manna (actual food) which God Himself provided for them for the rest of their journey to the Promised Land. The Feast of Unleavened Bread is to start on the 15th day of Nisan (Jewish Calendar, the same month as Passover, at twilight. This is a 7-day feast and the first and last days are to be Sabbaths.

Three Accounts of Preparation

In all three synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), we read that Jesus anticipated the Passover meal as he arrived in Jerusalem, and understood the need to prepare for it. The careful and varying details in each of the accounts give weight to the importance of what was to happen there.

The Upper Room was very much on his mind. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus gives his disciples specific instructions about how they were to prepare for the event, though they could not have known how significant that evening would be for them all—the last time Jesus would celebrate with them in this world. As we read the other Gospel narratives, even the smallest details take on eternal significance.

Preparing for Passover

Reading Mark's Gospel, we see that Jesus was more specific, even prophetic about the details. Jesus is even more detailed and prophetic in the account of Luke.

One day before His crucifixion, Jesus instructed Peter and John to go into Jerusalem and prepare for Passover (Luke 22:8). He told them about the house with an upper room in which they would gather that evening and instructed them on how they would find it. They followed His instruction and located the upper room.

Once the disciples secured the room in Jerusalem for Passover, they had to handle preparations for the meal itself. The most important details included making sure the lamb had been slaughtered properly and roasted. They also gave attention to preparing the other dishes associated with the meal.

Preparation also included attention to other details. Items such as jars of water, bitter herbs, unleavened bread, a fruit-and-nut paste, and a raw vegetable dipped in tart dressing had to be gathered and prepared. Also, wine had to be secured.

In addition, the room had to be arranged with floor cushions so everyone could recline at the table. Timing was critical in the preparation of the Passover meal. The roasted lamb and all of the items had to be prepared by 6:00 p.m. That's when the family would recline at the table and the meal would begin.

The Story of Redemption

Passover was much more than a meal consumed by a family during a festival. It was an opportunity to remember the story of God's redemption. Each prepared item played a significant role in helping God's people to remember what He had done for them.

For instance, the Passover lamb reminded them of the faith of their ancestors, who painted their doorposts with the blood of sacrificial lambs, thus sparing them the visit of the death angel.

The bitter herbs helped them to remember the bitterness of their slavery in Egypt, and the unleavened bread brought to mind their hasty departure from Egypt. The nut-and-fruit paste helped them to recollect the clay their ancestors used to make bricks for Pharaoh in Egypt, and the cups of wine reminded them of God's promises in Exodus 6:6.8

Telling Your Children the Story of Jesus

At a pivotal juncture in the long meal, the father or other family leader would begin to reflect on the night of Passover. Someone at the table, usually the youngest son, would be prepared to ask about the significance of that night. The leader would reply by retelling the story of the exodus of God's people from slavery in Egypt to freedom in Israel.