

The Gospel According to Luke

Luke 22:7-13

Reading: Exodus 12

Parallel Passages: Matthew 26:17-19 and Mark 14:12-16

Sermon #92

September 13, 2020

The Passover Lamb

The Time Has Come

As we learned last week everything is beginning to take shape very quickly as we move towards the Passion of Christ. Satan had entered into and is now controlling the traitor Judas. The religious leaders also allowed themselves, by their evil desires, to be influenced by the prince of this world. Judas and the religious leaders had made a bargain and agreed on 30 pieces of silver. Judas was selling out King Jesus for a few months' wages. The religious leaders were plotting murder and the price paid seemed to be a bargain. They are all in complete agreement and they were glad, at least on that day, for they had gotten what they wanted. Jesus was being betrayed by one of His inner-circle of followers. As King David had written, ["Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy."](#) (Proverbs 27:6 NASB) The traitorous kiss was not long away.

In our text today, there are a few things I want you to notice with me: First, is the timing of these events. The Jewish leaders are scheming to arrest Jesus. All the religious leaders agreed that His teaching in the Temple must stop, for He is a threat to the positions. Second, as they schemed their consistent question is how will they silence Jesus? They know they cannot arrest Him during the day because the people that surround him. They were going to wait until after the Passover, but Judas had given them an opportunity. If they are going to act, it needed to happen soon before Passover begins and at a time and place that Jesus is either alone or

where very few people are around. Judas' mission is to seek out such a time and place and alert the leaders so they can take Jesus quietly. Above all it must be done quickly and if possible and hopefully in secret. So, we observe evil is scrambling and trying to bring together loose-ends to accomplish Christ' arrest. Third, take notice, Jesus has never been more deliberate and on schedule. Jesus is not scrambling; He is not in a frenzy trying to work things out. Jesus is calm, cool and collected. Everything is being accomplished, as Jesus desires and as God planned from eternity past.

The scriptures teach that blood is the life source; that has always been true physically, but now it will be shown to be true spiritually. By, the blood of Jesus, God's eternal Passover Lamb, for those who believe, all traces of sin are covered and God chooses to remember them no more. As we read in Hebrews, ¹⁵ "The Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, ¹⁶ 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,' ¹⁷ then he adds, 'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.' ¹⁸ **Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.**" (Hebrews 10:15-18) Only Jesus, as God, has the authority to forgive sins.

Let me pray as we prepare to delve into God's Word.

The Passover Orchestrated (v.7)

Reading Luke 22, verse 7, "Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed." Jesus is God's eternal Passover Lamb and ⁷ "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, **according to his**

purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.” (Ephesians 1:7-10) Do you believe without doubt, do you believe in your very souls, that God directed every moment of Jesus’ life including His death? Do you understand that it all, every detail, was planned before the creation? This most wicked event in history was planned by God and allowed to be carried out by the prince of this world and the evil men influenced by him. But this most wicked event also resulted in the salvation of mankind. As Jesus made clear, **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”** (John 3:16)

We must understand today that not only was Jesus decreed by God to be crucified for our sins before the world began as we learned last week, but this would be on a very specific time schedule. In order for Jesus to be God’s Passover Lamb, He had to be sacrificed on Passover. From the time of Exodus almost 1300 years earlier the Passover was on the Hebrew calendar at sunset of the 14th which begins the 15th of Nisan (**nee·sawn**). In the Book of Exodus chapter 12 we have the recorded account of the Passover. To understand Luke more completely, we must look to Exodus chapter 12 for the richness of the first Passover and then look to Luke’s account for the last Passover.

Turn in Bibles to Exodus 12, please stand and read along with Brother Patrick.

As we listen to Patrick read and as he worked his way through chapter 12 - I hope you noticed some amazing things. First, the Passover changed Israel’s calendar. The Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar with 13 months. The month of Tishri (**'tiSHrē**) had marked the first month the year. However, with the Exodus, God commanded the month Nisan would be the first month of the ecclesiastical (i-

,klē-zē-'a-sti-kəl) or religious year and the month of Tishri now was the 1st month of the civil year and the Jewish new year. Second, on the 10th of Nisan, the Passover lamb was to be singled out and marked for slaughter, just as Jesus had been singled out prior to the Passover by the religious leaders for slaughter.

The Passover lamb was often a bitter lesson for the family, especially children; the lamb was brought into the home and for 4 days the lamb was fed and cared for. The small children would have treated it like a pet. At the end of 4 days the father would sly the lamb. The death of Jesus would be a bitter lesson to the world of what the cost of their sin was. The blood of the lamb was painted on the doorframe to symbolize the first Passover and how the angel of death saw the blood and passed over the house of the Jews in Egypt, on the 1st Passover. God would soon see the blood of Jesus and Passover the sins of those who believe in Him as their Savior Messiah.

This was God's plan from before the world began. The Apostle Peter wrote,¹⁸ “knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of **a lamb without blemish or spot.**²⁰ **He was foreknown before the foundation of the world.**” (1 Peter 1:18-20a) The last prophet of the Old Testament, John the Baptist, knew of God's plan saying,²⁹ “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the **Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!**’ ” (John 1:29) We come to understand that Jesus was God's Passover Lamb from before there was a Passover. It is God who brought a lamb, His only Son to be sacrificed. When Jesus died, the death angel would forever Passover God's people. Jesus' blood frees us from sin and death and gives us life eternal with Christ.

Returning to Exodus chapter 12 we read in verses 5 and 6, “Your lamb shall be without blemish ... ⁶ you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight.” We know from the Bible that Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God was completely sinless and perfect and without blemish. The Bible tells us that, at Jesus’ crucifixion ⁴⁴ “It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.” (Luke 23:44-45) Jesus died during the day so, God, made it twilight, He darkened the sky for Exodus 6 to remain true.

Notice now, how Jesus, Himself puts things in motion. He sends out two of His most trust disciples, Peter and John, to get everything prepared for the true Passover, reading verses 8 to 13 of Luke 22, “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.” Jesus is always in charge and has a purpose, let’s go back to verses 8 and 9 and see one of His purposes for how he did things. Reading verses 8 and 9, “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?’” This ties to what we learned last week about Judas betraying Jesus to the Chief Priests in secret. Judas meeting with the priests was at night behind closed doors. Judas mission was to find a time and place where the priests could send their temple guards and arrest Jesus with few

people around. So, if Jesus had told Peter and John go to Benjamin's house on the narrow street where the Gihon Spring runs into the Pool of Siloam and prepare for the Passover meal. If Jesus had given instructions with this detail, Judas would have had all the information needed for Jesus' arrest out of the sight of His followers. If was not God's appointed time, so, Jesus does not instruct Peter and John in that way. It was natural for Peter and John to ask, "Where will you have us prepare it?" After all Jerusalem is a turmoil of people everywhere and there would literally not have been a room for rent within the city and this why they later went to the Mount of Olives to sleep. Secondly, their question was prompted by not knowing where to go to prepare the Passover meal. But rather than giving specific instructions, which Judas, could then relayed to the priests, Jesus gives an interesting and but specific answer.

Jesus answers Peter and John saying, "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." Jesus had to remain secretive about where they were to go and celebrate the Passover meal. He still had much to teach His beloved disciples. The teaching known as the Upper Room Discourse is extremely significant for His disciples and for us. How does Jesus pull off telling His 2 disciples where to go and not alert Judas? Jesus knew of Judas' betrayal and He knew that the Passover meal would be the optimum time for Judas to do what he was about to do. Jesus knew that even with 2 million people in Jerusalem, during this time, the time of sharing the Passover meal, the streets would be practically empty. Judas could do his dirty work very easily if he knew where they were going to be. So, Jesus leaves Judas in the dark. No one knew except Peter and

John. Jesus has just guaranteed that the upper room discourse and the Last Supper would indeed take place without interference. Until Peter and John led everyone to the upper room no one would know where they were going, except of course, Jesus.

The Lord has a secret plan because there are things He has to accomplish. He will only allow Himself to be betrayed and arrested on His schedule. That is not going to happen until very late Tuesday night. When He finally finishes everything at the last supper and goes to the Mount of Olives, there He will be arrested and He will be executed that same day before the sun sets. Only in that little window of time can He be arrested, tried and executed. Not before, so that He will die...He will die on Thursday evening as the lambs are sacrificed, on Passover exactly at the right time for the Lamb of God to be sacrificed for all mankind. God is in control of every detail and the schemes of Satan and those he sways are only allowed to do what God decrees.

All of these actions took place on the Eve of Passover, on the 13th of Nisan, but remember the Jewish day starts at sundown, so Tuesday evening is the 14th, the beginning of Wednesday. So, Passover day began at sundown. That evening Jesus had the last supper or the last Passover supper with His disciples, then went to the Mount of Olives and was arrested and all through that dark night was questioned until sunrise and then at daylight taken to Pilate, who washed his hands of the blood of this innocent man, Jesus because the crowd shouted for the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus. The crowd had spoken, so, Jesus was scourged and crucified before noon on Wednesday, the 14th of Nisan, which is the day of Passover. I will go no further at this time, but return to the disciples Peter and John.

Disciples Amazed By The Details

By Luke's account we see Jesus is sovereign, for it says in verse 13, Peter and John "went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover." In the midst of men's scheming and deception and betrayal, Jesus is in control, He is sovereign. Jesus carries out God the Father's plan and nothing will be allowed to change it. Jesus is willing to submit Himself in all things to the Father, but only as the Father directs. Off go Peter and John, they enter the city and as they walk they encounter a man carrying a jar of water and he approaches them. He directs them to follow him. This reminds me of my travels around the world; it was not unusual to be going to a new country, a new city and all I knew is there would be people there to meet me and take me where I was to go. I remember I was flying into a country and the man sitting in the seat next to me, as we talked, asked where I would be in the country. I said, I was not sure. He asked who was meeting me? I answered I did not know. He was dumbfounded at my answers, but it gave me an opportunity to tell him about Christ and how He cared for me as I came to serve His people in a new country. Back to the man with the jar of water. I want you to understand how unusual this was. Women went to the wells or the spring and brought water for their households. Men simply did not do this woman's chore. So, for Peter and John to spot the right man carrying a jar of water in a city of 2 million was not hard for this man was the only man carrying a jar of water. Jesus had arranged this unusual sight. They went with the man to his master's house and approached the master and said to him the words of Jesus, "The Teacher says to you, where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" Again, there is no debate or discussion because God had ordained and the master takes them upstairs and shows them "a large upper room furnished". Amazingly this room is furnished and ready for Jesus to have the Passover Meal with His

disciples. It is implied that not only I there a table and cushions but everything needed for the Passover meal. Peter and John must have been amazed – everything was just as Jesus said in every detail. Lesson for us is to be like Peter and John; they obeyed and trusted Jesus and everything was just as He said it would be, we need to obey and trust in Jesus and know everything will be as God has planned for our good. Just as Paul wrote, “I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints,⁶ and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.” (Philemon 1:5-6) God calls us to believe and live in faith that becomes effective for every good thing for the sake of Christ.

We Look Back With Amazement

Jesus will care for us just as He has said He would do; in good times and bad, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and cherish until death unites us forever. The process of sanctification is as Paul wrote,⁷ “Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.⁸ Let us therefore celebrate the festival (*as the new Passover, our salvation by the blood of the Passover Lamb*), not with the old leaven (*of the Jewish system*), the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” (1 Corinthians 5:7-8) Because of the finished work of Jesus, He is the last sacrifice, there are no more Passovers to offer sacrifices, Jesus was the last and final sacrifice. There is no more Passovers, we are people of the New Covenant and celebrate the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Jesus’ sacrifice. The question before us each is, “Are you holding onto your past? Are you still looking to the systems and rituals of the world? Or, have you let the blood of the Lamb of God cover you and cleanse your sin and has He become your Savior and Lord? As John declared, “Behold, the **Lamb of God**, who takes away

the sin of the world!” (John 1:29) Jesus has done it all and all you have to do is believe and obey.

I pray you and I do not trust in our own goodness or the systems of the world. That we, just as the Hebrews in Egypt had to depend on the blood of the Passover lamb for protection, so, we trust in the blood of Jesus, God’s true Passover Lamb and final sacrifice. I pray we see clearly that everyone who is not trusting in Jesus remains in sin and therefore, is condemned. In Egypt all who did not have the blood of the lamb painted on the doors suffered the loss of the firstborn – both Egyptians and Hebrews alike. My beloved it does not matter if you are rich or poor; for even the richest man in Egypt, Pharaoh, lost his firstborn son. What matters is are you covered by the blood of Christ, for without it you will suffer eternal loss! Without the blood of God’s Passover Lamb, Jesus, all those you know and love will be cut down just as the firstborn of Egypt. One may die before the Lamb of God returns or they may be here when He comes on a cloud with His angels but the result is the same; for those who believe in Jesus as their Lord and Savior their sins have been covered by His blood and they will be with Him forever and those who have not trusted and believed in Jesus will be cast into hell forever. I pray that this inspires you to share the amazing miraculous gift of your salvation with those who do not know Christ as their Lord and Savior. Amen!