

04-13-14

Scripture: Matthew 26

Title: The Cross

As we head into this season again

Remembering Jesus' triumphal entry

Arrest, trials, death, burial and
resurrection

We need to remember

Mark 10:45

45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Why did Jesus come to earth?

To give His life a ransom for many

This was the plan from the beginning

Not a mistake – nothing went wrong...

Jesus came to die for the sins of the world

Jesus is in control of all of this

He stands as King, as Messiah as Savior

Through all of this...

This is the central point of all scripture

This is not merely the theme of the story

This is the account – from beginning to end

The events we remember this time of year

This is the center of all history

From Adam and Eve we learn that a sacrifice is necessary to cover sin

From Cain and Abel – it is a specific sacrifice

From Abraham we see God provides the sacrifice

From the Passover we see the sacrifice must be w/o spot or blemish

All of these point to Jesus

He is the ultimate, perfect,
substitutionary, gift of God

He is the unblemished lamb

Old Testament moves us up to the cross

The gospels focus on the cross

The rest of the New Testament deals with the implications and results of the cross.

The death of Jesus is the center of all of redemptive history

The cross is everything

The Feasts

Matthew 26:17-19

Luke 22:15

15 And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;

Jesus' earnest desire...

He really wanted to do this

To fulfill all righteousness...

But there's more

Why is this such a big deal?

Why is it so important for Jesus to spend this time w/ His disciples?

Several things will help us in understanding all of this

We need some Jewish background

Jewish understanding to help w/this...

We need to better understand...

First day of Unleavened Bread

Passover

What are these?

Jewish feasts, Jewish holidays

Several held throughout the year

Like we have – our holidays

These were remembrances of God's actions in the past

Reminders of how He worked...

God's deliverance of His people after 400+ years of slavery in Egypt is the focus of both of these

- Feast of Unleavened Bread

Started as they were leaving Egypt

In making bread they would take a piece of dough and save it for the next batch – starter

We do similar thing today

Sourdough bread – keep a starter to make more

Remember sourdough pancakes as a kid

Good way to use up starter

Kept growing had too much

Friendship bread – tastes good

Make it and then give starters to more people

Always a problem finding enough friends 😊

In leaving Egypt told not to do this process

Result is bread that is unleavened

Doesn't have leavening – no rising agent

Yeast, baking powder, baking soda

The bread would be flat – more like a cracker

...Matzo used for communion is unleavened bread

As they left Egypt God did not want them to take the old ways of Egypt with them

Leaving the old behind – starting new life

In the Jewish calendar – lunar calendar (ours is solar)

Difference in dates for Easter...

Passover is 14th of Nisan

Feast of Unleavened Bread started on 15th of

Nisan lasted for 7 days...

Yearly reminder – put off the old and put on the new

Lasted a total of 8 days

Feast of unleavened bread began w/ the father searching the house for leavening

Getting rid of all that he found

They ate unleavened bread for 7 days

The preparation

Matthew 26:17

Read about the 1st Passover in Exodus 12

Good reading this week – prepare for Passover...

Lamb was selected on the 10th – brought into the house

10th is the day Jesus entered the city

We celebrate as Palm Sunday

Jesus is presenting Himself on this day

Presenting Himself as the Lamb

The Passover Lamb

The Lamb was brought into the house and cared for

Became a family pet

Before they killed it for Passover

Help in understanding the price of sin

Not just any lamb, spotless lamb

Lamb that had been with them as a pet

Several places it says they had to prepare

Prepare for them to have the Passover

There is much preparation

Lamb has to be slain – at the temple

Josephus records ¼ million lambs

Slain in the temple – blood running

out the back into the Kidron valley

Filled up the brook – ran red, down

to Bethlehem

Face to face w/ sin

Face to face w/ the sacrifice necessary to atone

None of these lambs could actually take away sin

All of this is a picture for us

A picture of the One Lamb, Jesus
His one sacrifice on the cross
Paid for sin, fully and completely

Much to prepare

Killing of the lamb

Making of unleavened bread - matzah

Making salt water – reminder of tears shed in
slavery and salt water of Red Sea that was
parted for them

Had to get bitter herbs – horseradish – reminder
of the bitterness of Egypt

Charoseth – gooey paste made from apples and
nuts – symbol of brick making in Egypt

4 cups of juice

Roasting the lamb

Had to be roasted, not boiled

No broken bones...

And, it had to be held in Jerusalem...

We won't be doing that Friday ☺

Now, if 250,000 lambs were killed

That's over 2 million people

Where would you find a place in Jerusalem?

- *Go into the city to a certain man*

Again we see – Jesus has a plan – He knows what He's
doing – go to a certain man

Greek is actually go find Mr. So and So

What? Going to city w/ 2 million+ people

All there for the Passover

Jesus says go find Mr. So-and-So

Why didn't He just say His name?

Tell them where to go

Account in Mark gives a few more details

Go into town, find a man carrying water – usually
done by women – follow him

The house he goes to is where we'll go

Why doesn't Jesus explain more...

Often wondered...

Perhaps so Judas doesn't know

Remember he's looking for a place to
have Him arrested – this would be a good
time – private...

Go find Mr. So and So

Go get things ready – get everything prepared...

Passover

Matthew 26:20

Reclining – originally Passover was to be eaten
standing up, w/ your coat on, shoes on, staff in hand,
ready to go...

This had changed through the years

Become a rather lengthy feast

The meal begins w/ the cup of blessing

First of 4 cups during the meal

Then there is a washing of hands

Ceremonial cleansing

Acknowledging their need for cleansing
as they are celebrating God's salvation

Likely during this time the disciples began arguing
about who was the greatest among them

And this is where Jesus washed their feet
Jesus rebukes them for their pride and arrogance
He gives them a picture of humility
Washing their feet...

Next is the bitter herbs – a reminder of the bitterness
of their slavery in Egypt

A reminder for us of the bitterness of our
slavery to sin

Then we have the second cup – showing forth

A telling and an explaining of what is happening

Next is the Hallel – the praise – Psalm 113 to 118

Sometime in this beginning part we have...

Matthew 26:21-25

Most interesting part – don't have time today...

Even up to the very end
Jesus is reaching out to Judas
Offering him help...

Judas refuses

And before we get to the main part
He is sent away...

Also a time of self examination

Is it I, am I the one
Could I betray Him?
Am I capable of that, of sin?

Then we have the lamb, the main portion of the meal

The Bread

Matthew 26:26

- ✚ Hand out bread, and hold...
Look at, consider...

As the meal continued...

- Even w/ interruptions
- Foot washing
- Judas being dismissed

Not we get to the heart

- Jesus took a piece of Matzah
- A piece of matzah has been pierced and striped

There are three pieces of matzah during the meal

- The middle is taken, broken, wrapped in linen
- Hidden away – to be found later
- When it is again brought out
- This “body” that was broken
- Wrapped in linen, buried in the ground

Jesus takes this piece and says – this is my body

- My body that will be pierced for you
- My body that will be beaten for you
- My body that will be broken for you
- My body that will be buried for you...

This is unleavened bread

In the Passover represents leaving the old
behind – not taking part of the old w/ them
Jesus changes it – it now represents Himself –
His body beaten and dying for us

1 Corinthians tells us – do this in remembrance of Him
Remembering His body – dying for us
He gave His body as a sacrifice for our sins
Remember this...

Read Matthew 26:26

 **Eat the bread**

The cup

Matthew 26:27-29

 Hand out the cup...

Hold the cup, think about His shed
blood...

He gave thanks for the bread
He gives thanks for the cup
This is now the third cup

They are all told to drink from it
Everyone of them

The third cup, the cup of redemption
Jesus redeemed us by His blood
We are bought at a price – His blood
This cup of redemption is my blood
Being shed for the forgiveness of sins

Hebrews 9:22

22 And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Shedding blood is a vivid description of the loss of life

His blood was shed

Through the wounds in His hands

Through the wounds in His feet

Through the spear in His side...

This is the blood of the covenant, the new covenant

Not like the old which had to be repeated

This is the new – one time Jesus died

Paid the price completely

The disciples had just seen the blood of thousands of lambs sacrificed at the temple

Blood flowing like a river

Jesus shed His blood

The spotless Lamb

Died for us...

No longer were they to remember the lamb that was killed to provide the blood that was put around the door so the death angel would pass-over

This cup represents Jesus blood – shed for us

Remember this

Jesus' life was poured out for us

He died so we can be forgiven

Read Matthew 26:27-28

 **Drink the cup**

And then...

Matthew 26:29

29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

This is the fulfillment of the Passover

This is the start of the New Covenant

The honorary meal had been the Passover

Now it has become Communion

He is saying – keep doing this until I come back

Until I come back and we do this together again

Do this to remember My sacrifice

We need to continue to remember His sacrifice

We will continue to remember His sacrifice forever...

This night He will be arrested

This night He will be tried and found guilty

He will be sentenced to die, on a cross

His body will be beaten

His blood will be shed – He will die

All to pay the debt of our sin

A debt we could not pay ourselves

He died for us

All who repent and trust in Jesus have eternal life

Matthew 26:30

30 After singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

They finished the meal – the 4th cup – the cup of praise
They sang a hymn and went out...

Benediction:

Matthew 26:26-29

26 While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

Sermon outline

04-13-14

Matthew 26

The F _____

The P _____

The P _____

The B _____

The C _____

And then...