

NOTES

Recap:

- We've been looking at the last week of Jesus' life.
- Today: looking at Jesus' last meal with His Disciples (a Passover meal).

Passover:

- For Jews the day started at sundown. The Last Super was a Passover meal that needed to be eaten between sundown and midnight (likely occurred on a Thursday).
- The day of Passover began with the Passover meal and the 7 days following it were the feast of unleavened bread. By Jesus' day all 8 days were talked about under the heading of Passover.
- There are guidelines around this meal and there is a lot of symbolism in the meal.
 - o It had to be eaten in Jerusalem
 - o Each dish was symbolic, representing things from the original Passover in Exodus.
 - o The head of the household would have walked everyone through the story of the Passover using the meal.
- Jesus prearranged a room for the meal and would have been in the seat of honor (center of the U)
 - o John in a seat of honor next to Jesus.
 - o Judas may have had the other seat of honor on the other side of Jesus. This helps explain how other people didn't know - likely a private exchange between Judas and Jesus.
- Shocking statement: one of the 12 would betray Him.
 - o Jesus tells them it could be any one of them.
 - o Judas uses Rabi – in Matt. only people outside the 12 call Him that. The 12 call Him Lord.
 - Judas chose to distance himself from Jesus while Jesus drew him near
 - o Satan entered Judas because Judas opened the door.
 - God ordained that Jesus would be betrayed, and Judas chose to play that part.
- Significant statement: Jesus redefining Passover and establishing a new covenant.
 - o He redefined two elements, the bread (His body) and the juice (His blood of the covenant poured out for [all] for the forgiveness of sins).

Two views on Communion around the use of the word 'is' (this is my body, this is my blood):

1. Transubstantiation – the elements are transformed into the actual body and blood of Jesus.
2. Spiritual/Real presence of Jesus - He's present in communion when it's taken in faith; He's not present in the elements.
 - This is what we believe at StoneBridge
 - We offer grape juice and offer gluten-free bread to increase accessibility

Refer to **Covenant** slides:

- Covenant - the framework or terms of a binding relationship
 - o Ex: Christian Marriage:
 - begins with a declaration of intent - defining the relationship.
 - Vows - Not a declaration of love, but an expression of commitment
 - The foundation is commitment, and love is built on that
 - Wedding ring – sign of the covenant
- Covenants – the primary way God relates with people.
 - o The purpose of both the old and new covenant is to form a people for Himself.
 - o God established a new covenant because we couldn't keep the old covenant.
- Jesus establishing the New Covenant demonstrates a higher level of authority

- Jesus as the Son of God, went beyond the common understanding of the Messiah.
- This established a new way for God and humanity to relate one another.

Refer to **Father established** slide:

- The old covenant washed the outside, the new covenant cleanses us from within, transforming us into new creations by giving us new hearts.
- Under the old covenant it wasn't that people didn't know, it's that they couldn't keep it.
- The Holy Spirit lives in our hearts, writing the law on our hearts, leading and guiding us through our days by directing and convicting us, and He empowers and enables us to obey.
 - He makes us Holy.
 - This is the difference between carrying food on your back as an added weight and carrying food in your stomach as a source of energy.

QUESTIONS

Last week we considered the following possibility: that Judas may have gone to the religious leaders to betray Jesus in order to put Jesus into a situation where He would have to act like the Messiah that Judas thought He should have been (a conquering king). This week we considered the likelihood of Jesus drawing Judas near while Judas was distancing himself from Him. Are there areas in your life where you're distancing yourself from Jesus? Why?

David talked about communion being to Christians what Passover was to the Jews in Jesus' day. Noting that it's a meal that looks back (Jesus said "do this in remembrance of me"). We know that the act of remembrance is meant to help us shape our current perspective. How does remembering the reality that Jesus' crucifixion, death, and resurrection saved you from sin, Satan, and death help shape your perspective during communion?

During communion David recited part of Psalm 103, read it together. Offer time to reflect on the benefits listed in the Psalm and then take time to pray for one another. The following questions can help support the time of reflection.

- Are you struggling to receive forgiveness?
- Are you waiting for healing?
- Do you feel crowned with love and compassion, or do you feel like you're in a pit?
- Are there unfulfilled longings in your heart?
- Are you weary?
- Are you longing for righteousness and justice?
- Do you know The Father's love for you?