

A TIME TO REMEMBER Luke 22:7-23

Nostalgia.

Swindoll defines it: "That abnormal yearning within us to step into the time tunnel and recover the irrecoverable:

- * A barefoot walk along a sandy beach
- * A quiet visit to the place you were raised
- * Looking over childhood photos in the family album

All bring back those memories of the past.

NOSTALGIA.

Our Lord's about to sit with His followers for the last time.

After 3 yrs of sharing their lives together Jesus is leaving.

He wants them to remember.

Lord's supper was established to remind disciples that God planned Jesus' death in advance, as part of His plan.

God arranged the place for Jesus to meet with His disciples for their final Passover together.

While Jewish leaders are gathering, Jesus meets alone with His disciples to prepare them for events about to take place (22:7-46).

They meet in private room to celebrate Passover

PREPARATION FOR PASSOVER 22:7-13

Normal significance of Passover = **Past significance**– reflection **back in history to the Exodus**, when they sacrificed lamb and put blood on doorpost of houses.

That sacrifice was means by which firstborn was spared divine judgment on every home in Egypt.

God frees Israel from bondage in Egypt.

Jesus points to **future significance of Passover**.

He won't eat it again until *its significance* is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.

When Kingdom is established they'll gather to celebrate Passover.

They'll be reminded of another sacrifice:

Lamb of God Who takes away sin of the world –whose death provides freedom from bondage to sin.

22:7-13 *"Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed."⁸ Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."⁹ "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. ¹⁰ He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, ¹¹ and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'"¹² He will show you a large upper room, all furnished. Make preparations there."¹³ They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover."*

God arranges place for Jesus to meet with His disciples for important final meeting

Jesus demonstrates control over events by telling Peter and John exactly what will happen when they arrive in the city.

It would be easy to identify the person because this is a *man* carrying a water jug.

Women normally carried water from well to home.

After place is identified, Peter and John purchase approved lamb [USDA–synagogue approved!] and take it to temple to be slain.

Then they take it back to the house to be roasted.

Table will be prepared with wine, unleavened bread (thin, wafer-like loaf—like giant cracker) & paste of bit-ter herbs to remind them of bitter bondage in Egypt.

INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 22:14-20

This is an emotionally-charged event.

It's hard for us to imagine depths of emotion Jesus feels.

22:14-15 *When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer."*

It's emotional because it's His last opportunity to be with intimate followers before suffering on cross.

He knows what He's about to go through;
—they can't comprehend it.

Jesus wants to celebrate this last Passover with those He loves.

There'll be no more Passovers for Him until Passover in the kingdom—the ultimate fulfillment of all Passovers—when He returns to establish His rule on earth. **22:16** *For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."*

Even then, He can see beyond suffering to the glory
which will be His when He establishes His kingdom.

This is a *triumphant* moment because He sees beyond it to future when they'll be together again.

What a great reunion it will be when they're all together again around the table in the Kingdom.

That day's coming; we'll all gather around banquet table and celebrate together.

He doesn't partake Himself, because it represents sacrifice He's about to make for them.

He *IS* the Passover Lamb and His blood is about to be poured out.

He tells *them* to partake & distribute elements among themselves. **22:17-18** *After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you."¹⁸ For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."*

Jesus establishes a way to remember what He is about to do for us.

Bread and wine were common at every meal.

Jesus gave them special significance,
to remind His followers of His death.

He took bread & broke it— that's what they'll do to His body. **22:19** *He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."*

He gave them bread just as He gave His life for them.

Whenever they eat bread, they remember His death

The celebration should provoke memories of the price He paid.

It should provoke gratitude

It should provoke faith in Him

That's appropriate response of His people gathered around the table to remember His death for us.

Memories, love, gratitude, faith, hope!

Wine represents shedding of blood, poured out for us. **22:20** *In the same way,*

after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

It's basis of New Covenant

–different from old in that **He** fulfills conditions

He's sacrificial Lamb who takes away sin of world

Old covenant–old agreement between God and man– based on shedding of animal blood

They had to do it over and over again; year after year, time after time.

It had to be done right!

Old is reminder of *our failure*–makes us realize that we'd never be able to stand in God's presence.

Old is based on law. It results in condemnation.

Jesus institutes a new covenant–new agreement between God and man –based on shedding His blood.

Covenant *isn't* based on our doing the right thing,
but on what He has done.

It's finished–price is paid!

Jesus is saying that He made possible a new relationship between God and us.

It cost His life to restore lost relationship with God.

But now it's done.

We just need to remind ourselves of what *He* did to make it all possible!

Roger Rose tells how when he was a boy, his family lived on a farm alongside a dirt road. On rare occasions an automobile passed by. One day Roger's young brother was riding on that old dirt road on his bicycle, a car came roaring down a nearby hill, struck the boy, and killed him. Roger said, "Later, when my father picked up the mangled, twisted bike, I heard him sob out loud for the first time in my life. He carried it to the barn and placed it in a spot we seldom used. With passing of time the pain was healed, but for many years whenever he saw that bike, tears began streaming down his face." Roger continued, "Since then I've often prayed, 'Lord, keep the memory of Your death as fresh as that to me! When I partake of Your supper, let my heart be stirred like that.'"

According to Thy gracious word, In meek humility,

This will I do, my dying Lord: I will remember Thee.

Thy body, broken for my sake,

My bread from heaven shall be;

Thy testamental cup I take, And thus remember Thee.

When to the cross I turn mine eyes And rest on Calvary,

O Lamb of God, my sacrifice, I must remember Thee.

Remember Thee and all Thy pains And all Thy love to me;

Yea, while a breath, a pulse remains,

Will I remember Thee.

And when these failing lips grow dumb

And mind and memory flee,

When Thou shalt in thy kingdom come,

Jesus, remember me!

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BETRAYAL 22:21-23

Judas' betrayal is no surprise to Jesus 22:21

But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.

Jesus knew in advance!

The one who hands Jesus over to religious leaders to get rid of Him *isn't* an outsider.
 He's one of them—in the room with them
 —whose hand's on the table with His!
 He participates in Passover with other followers.
 Traditionally Passover is a *family* occasion.
 Jesus celebrates it with His "family"
Judas is part of the family!
 While this is a shock to them, it's no surprise to Jesus.
 Jesus demonstrates that He's in control.
 He predicts events related to its preparation
 He predicts betrayal.
 When overcome by despair & fear, provoked by His death, they can recall that He's in control!
Judas' betrayal is part of God's plan—
 It's God's plan It's no surprise
Balance between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility. 22:22 *The Son of Man will go as it's decreed, but woe to that man who betrays him."*
 God decreed it
 Man is still responsible for his actions
 Repeatedly Scripture makes it plain: God has a plan.
 His plan includes our sin and failure.
 Though true, it doesn't alleviate our responsibility.
 Judas will never be able to say: "You made me do it!"
 He did exactly what HE wanted to do.
 He's guilty. He's responsible. **SO ARE WE!**
 Judas had opportunity to see Jesus up close,
 to observe Him and consider His claims.
 He could've chosen to trust Jesus; identify with Him
 He's condemned because he *chose* to reject Him.
 He wasn't a slave, forced to do God's bidding, then suffer unjustly for doing what God made Him do.
 He whole-heartedly rejects and betrays Him
 —but it's all part of God's plan
The disciples trust Judas. They don't have a clue who'd do such a thing!
22:23
"They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this."
 Matthew & Mark: they all begin to ask whether they're the one. Each recognizes his own ability to fail Jesus!
Disciples all know they're capable of doing such a thing.
 Each thought they're more likely than the others!
 They know their own weakness.
No one suspects Judas!
 In spite of previous announcements that He'll be betrayed, they still aren't prepared for it.
 It's possible to be with the Lord, have the whole experience, go through all the motions, and still not be committed to Him.
 That was Judas' experience, *how about ours?*
What lessons can we learn from passage?
1. Jesus was willing to die for US.

2. He wants us to remember what He did for us
3. If Judas could walk the earth with Jesus & still miss the real thing, it's possible for US to spend our whole life around church and Jesus' followers and not have the real thing!

Bible warns us to examine ourselves to be sure we've truly trusted Christ—NOT ourselves, or our religion.

Do we really love Him?