



Remembered

Jesus' costly sacrifice should be remembered by believers.

LUKE 22:7-20

The command to remember is one of the most often instructed in the Bible. Most of the time, the command to remember is followed with a reminder of God's work in the lives of His people. It's like saying: Remember where you've come from; remember your story. When we forget our history, we cannot fully understand our present or our role in it. To forget our story is to forget why we're here. This makes Jesus' command to partake in the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Him all the more important.

Share about a time you forgot an important event or anniversary. What did you do afterward to make sure you didn't forget that date again?

UNDERSTAND THE **CONTEXT**

LUKE 22:1-28

The time of Jesus' death was drawing near. Luke 22 records Jesus' last meal with His disciples. Meals were an important part of Jesus' ministry. In Luke 7:34, we are told that Jesus came "eating and drinking." In the context of meals, Jesus chose to do much of His evangelism and discipleship. This makes sense since meals are a great place to connect with family members and others. Meals often turn strangers into friends. In the ancient culture, sharing a meal was an intimate sign of friendship and fellowship.

The meal we examine in chapter 22 may be one of the most important and meaningful meals in the entire Gospel account. This meal, the Lord's Supper, enacts the story of redemption. During this meal Jesus discussed with the disciples His approaching death, even as the plans to bring about His death were set into motion.

Still today this meal is observed. Jesus commanded the church to celebrate the Lord's Supper as an act of remembrance of His work on the cross and the inauguration of His eternal kingdom. Rightly so, Jesus' costly sacrifice should be remembered by all believers. The Lord's Supper also anticipates another meal at the brink of eternity when we will celebrate the consummation of Jesus' work, that is the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:6-10). In this sense, the Lord's table becomes the place where the presence of Jesus transforms the sad remembrance of things past into the glorious promise of things to come. Pull up a chair, and let's consider what the text may teach us.

**As you read Luke 22:7-20, note each action taken.
How does the preparation impact the actual meal?**

EXPLORE THE TEXT

PREPARED (LUKE 22:7-13)

⁷ Then the Day of Unleavened Bread came when 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 it?” they asked him. ¹⁰ “Listen,” he said to them, “when you’ve entered the city, a man carrying a water jug will meet you. Follow him into the house he enters. ¹¹ Tell the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks you, “Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover with my disciples?’” ¹² Then he will show you a large, furnished room upstairs. Make the preparations there.” ¹³ So they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

VERSE 7

Passover memorializes the time God saved the firstborn of Israel and delivered them from the bondage of slavery. The *Passover* was also called the Feast of Unleavened Bread (v. 1). The *Day of Unleavened Bread* was the day of preparation for the event.

The Israelites were held in Egyptian slavery for four hundred years. Pharaoh refused to let God’s people go, even after several plagues through which God displayed His supremacy over the powers of Egypt. The final plague resulted in the death of the firstborn in every house in Egypt (Ex. 12:30). Israel, however, was given instructions for a spotless lamb to be sacrificed on behalf of every household. They had to follow the instructions to be spared from death. Therefore, we see that the lamb’s blood saved God’s people, and by their obedience to God they avoided judgment.

Jesus’ institution of the Lord’s Supper during the Passover festival carries deep significance. The Lord’s Supper points to when God’s Son died in our place, enabling us to be delivered from the bondage of sin. In the Passover meal, the lamb was to be consumed with unleavened bread. The unleavened bread related to Israel’s exiting Egypt swiftly. The command to eat bitter herbs was a reminder of the bitter slavery they once experienced in Egypt. In the same way, we should often reflect on the bitterness of sin from which God has saved us through the death of His Son, the spotless lamb.

Every part of this meal was rich in symbolism. Just as the Passover was one of the most important meals for Israel, the Lord's Supper is the most important meal we celebrate as the people of God. Each time the Israelites celebrated the Passover, it was a reminder of what God had done and who they were called to be in response to His salvation. Each time we partake in the Lord's Supper, we remember Christ's sacrificial death and reorient ourselves to the most important event in our lives. It humbles us to see the extent of our sin, and gives us confidence that we have a place at God's table, where we are welcomed through our faith in Christ.

VERSES 8-13

Jesus told Peter and John: ***“Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.”*** With any large meal there is preparation. With the Passover meal, there was much preparation because every element of the meal symbolized an element of Israel's past. So Peter and John had to make sure the lamb, the bread, the wine, the bitter herbs, and room were ready.

As Peter and John went, they would find ***a man carrying a water jug*** who would lead them to a ***guest room*** where they would celebrate the meal. There are two ways to understand this. Either Jesus prearranged the room or this is an instance of His prophetic abilities. If it were an incident of prophetic insight, it reminds us that Jesus was not being carried away by these events but was in command the whole time. He would be in control of all the events—all accomplishing His divine mission. Just as God alone delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, Christ alone delivers us from sin and death.

However, the role of the disciples in making preparations cannot be overlooked. In preparing for the meal, they were being prepared for what they would witness in the days to follow. Peter and John would have taken their lamb to the temple and would have gotten in line to have the animal slaughtered. As the animal was slaughtered, the priests would catch the blood in gold and silver vessels. The insides of the animal were removed and returned to the owners for roasting. The disciples were also to prepare the room, roast the lamb, and provide unleavened bread, wine, and dishes of bitter herbs. They would later come to realize that in the preparations for this meal, they were being prepared for Jesus' sacrificial death. With the events that

would occur following the meal (namely, the cross), the imagery from their preparations would be seared into the minds.

It is no coincidence that Jesus chose a meal to communicate this gospel truth. When we sit down to eat a meal, it is a regular reminder that we are not self-sustaining but dependent beings. We die if we do not eat. The Lord's Supper is a reminder that we are dependent on the work of God through Christ for our salvation. Without the cross of Christ, we would remain dead in our sin. Without Christ's resurrection, we would have no hope of eternal life. Jesus has made the preparations for us; we simply sit down at the table and participate by grace.

What actions might a person need to take when preparing to participate in the Lord's Supper?

BIBLE SKILL: *Use multiple Scripture passages to understand a major doctrine.*

Read Exodus 24:8 and Leviticus 17:11-14. What do these passages tell you about the importance of blood in God's covenant? What does Hebrews 7:22 reveal about Jesus' role in the new covenant? Consider Hebrews 9:11-18 and Hebrews 13:20. Why was Jesus' shed blood necessary to initiate the new covenant?

LOOKING FORWARD (LUKE 22:14-18)

14 When the hour came, he reclined at the table, and the apostles with him. **15** Then he said to them, “I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. **16** For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” **17** Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. **18** For I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

VERSES 14-18

Once again, the Lord’s Supper reorients us to the truth of the gospel each time we partake of the elements. The gospel is the good news that God’s grace is greater than our sin. The good news is for the past, the present, and the future.

The text tells us that *when the hour came*, Jesus and the apostles *reclined at the table* together. Jesus told the disciples that He *fervently desired to eat this Passover* meal with them. There is intensity in this language. Jesus longed to eat with the disciples—to fellowship around the table—because it was a foretaste of the coming kingdom of God. Jesus was anticipating the day, made possible by His sacrificial death, when a new meal will be celebrated in fulfillment of all that Passover represents. One day, all believers will celebrate at the Lamb’s supper. (See Rev. 19.) In these moments, Jesus was able to frame the events of the cross before Him between two meals—one for remembrance and one for anticipation.

How does our remembrance of Christ’s cross and hope for eternity with Christ encourage us to live for Him today?

DID YOU KNOW?

Meals were eaten while reclining on cushions, resting on the elbow and next to low tables. With large groups, tables would be arranged in the form of a U, allowing servers access in the middle to those reclining.

LOOKING BACK (LUKE 22:19-20)

¹⁹ And he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ In the same way he also took the cup after supper and said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

VERSES 19-20

When Jesus broke the *bread* and distributed it to the disciples, He was indicating what would happen to Him. As they ate the bread, they symbolically fulfilled Jesus’ words that we must eat His flesh, meaning to symbolically accept the sacrifice of His body as a sacrifice for sin. As we eat food, it becomes part of us. Picture the imagery of Jesus taking a loaf of bread, breaking it, and handing it to the disciples. The crack of the bread crust and the sharing of one loaf is a powerful depiction of what He would do for each of them and for us.

Then Jesus moved on to *the cup*. The verb *poured out* is important. In the Old Testament, to pour out blood was to murder someone. In another sense, the pouring out of His blood established the new covenant (just as the blood of an animal sacrifice was poured out to atone for the sins of the people).

Moreover, drinking the cup of someone was understood to be a means of entering a relationship with them, an agreement to share that person’s destiny. It was a token of fellowship. With all of this symbolism in place, we see that drinking the cup of Christ unites us in His death. As the disciples drank from the same cup, they were reminded of their unity with Christ.

How does observing the Lord’s Supper help a person identify with Jesus?

In Luke 22:14-20 there is no mention of eating the Passover lamb. Perhaps this is a literary device showing us that Jesus Himself would become the Passover Lamb, as Paul expounded on in 1 Corinthians 5:7.

The Lord’s Supper portrays the story of redemption. This table becomes the place where the sad remembrance of things past are

transformed into the glorious promise of things to come. In this sense, the Lord's Supper has a threefold orientation. First, the Lord's Supper is a meal of remembrance. In the Lord's Supper we look back on God's salvation accomplished on the cross and in the resurrection. Second, the Lord's Supper is a meal of celebration. In the Lord's Supper we examine our own faith and are made thankful for the covenant Jesus established through His blood. This is the foundation for the unity we have with other Christians. Finally, the Lord's Supper is a meal of anticipation as we look forward to the promise of what's to come in the new heavens and new earth.

The Lord's Supper is a meal of remembrance, celebration, and anticipation.

As the elements of the Lord's Supper are distributed, we are often called to reflect on the reality of our sin and the good news of the gospel. At the same time, there is a sense of celebration as we take the cup and the bread. We must remember that salvation is accomplished. Christ has won! When we partake, we soberly remember but also joyfully celebrate in anticipation of the day we will sit with Jesus and dine with Him.

How do the mixed emotions of sorrow and celebration impact how we observe the Lord's Supper?

KEY DOCTRINE: *Baptism and the Lord's Supper*

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming (1 Cor. 11:23-29).

APPLY THE TEXT

- Believers must obediently prepare when remembering Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.
- Believers can look forward to joining Jesus for a great banquet in His kingdom.
- Believers are to remember the sacrificial death of Jesus when observing the Lord's Supper.

As a group, share stories of how you have prepared for Easter season. What practices have you found spiritually beneficial for remembering Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection?

What stirs your heart the most as you anticipate joining your brothers and sisters in Christ at His great banquet table? Write a prayer of anticipation.

When we as Christians partake of the Lord's table, we must recognize that we are all there by grace. What are some practical ways you can move toward reconciliation with others before you partake of the Lord's table together?

PRAYER NEEDS
