

## Daily Bible Study

### *“The Last Passover”*

*Mark 14:12-21*

*November 4 –November 10, 2012*

**THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY** –As we return to our study of Mark this week you will remember I had mentioned back in **verses 10-11** that we would see The Betrayer and The Betrayal in a bit more detail as we move along in **Chapter 14**. Well, here we are as we now come to the text which contains for us *The Last Passover* that was celebrated by our Lord Jesus as He walked the earth during His ministry. As we move through the text you will notice there is much here for us to study and learn from. We will among other things see the significance of the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread as well as the culmination of those symbolic pointers fulfilled in the person and work of the Lord Jesus and how He makes that known by putting in place for His people the New Feast, the Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper which is now the celebration for the people of God. Not only is there encouraging and edifying truths in this passage but also more serious warnings to examine our hearts as we again see The Betrayer Judas as he leaves this scene to carry out his plan. Let’s now look at the text: **Mark 14:12-21**: *“Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, “Where do You want us to go and prepare, that You may eat the Passover?” And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him. Wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says, “Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?”’ Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished and prepared; there make ready for us.” So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover. In the evening He came with the twelve. Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, “Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me.” And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, “Is it I?” And another said, “Is it I?” He answered and said to them, “It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish. The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born.”*

Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, teach me from Your Word this week as I study this Scripture.*

**TUESDAY** – **Mark 14:12**: *“Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover lamb, His disciples said to Him, “Where do You want us to go and prepare, that You may eat the Passover?”* The disciples of a Rabbi attended to Him and served His needs and this is the case with Jesus and the disciples as well. This is seen in their question to Jesus about

where He would like to eat the Passover feast and that they planned to go and prepare it for Him. The instruction from Jesus is very similar to those He gave them when He was about to enter the city for the Triumphal entry. But before we look at these instructions, let's speak for a bit about the feast of *Unleavened Bread, when they killed the Passover lamb...* This feast was one which symbolized for the people the need for the removal of sin. It is all taken from **Exodus 12:14-15**. The people were to remove all the leaven from their homes symbolizing the necessity of having sin removed and or dealt with in order to experience salvation and deliverance from the angel of death. This angel with the penalty for sin (death) would in fact Pass-Over those who had obeyed God and trusting Him and His Word had dealt with the leaven and had sacrificed the spotless lamb and placed his blood on their doorposts. This blood sacrifice had saved and protected the Israelites in Egypt and it is the blood sacrifice of the Passover Lamb Jesus Christ which that feast pointed too and which saves us today as well. The continuity of these feasts with God's plan of sacrificing Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice for sin is clearly seen throughout Scripture. Paul refers to these feasts in **1 Corinthians 5:7** where he says, "*Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*" Among other things we see in that passage our responsibility of forsaking sin in repentance but most importantly we see God's grace in the fact that over the removal of leaven (or our work) stands the salvation given to us by another's work; the perfect life and sacrificial death of Jesus for us His people.

*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for making and carrying out Your plan of Salvation. Thank You that it is because of Jesus perfect work not my imperfect work that You save me.*

**WEDNESDAY** – **Mark 14:13-16:** "*And He sent out two of His disciples and said to them, 'Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him. Wherever he goes in, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, 'Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?'' Then he will show you a large upper room, furnished and prepared; there make ready for us.'*" So His disciples went out, and came into the city, and found it just as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover." Here we come now to the actual instruction of Jesus to His men about preparing this **Last Passover**. They had asked Him in the previous verse showing their desire to serve Him their Rabbi and now Jesus the Rabbi of Rabbi's teaches and instructs them. We have in previous years had several messages where we looked at the Triumphal entry from several gospel accounts and pointed out the perfect control of Jesus over events, people, places, and animals that only the Sovereign God man could have had. We run into this very same thing here as He gives the disciples instruction about *into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him*. What makes this all the more interesting and highlights Jesus' place as Sovereign is the fact that men did not carry water in these days but rather it was the woman's responsibility to do this. Two exceptions are; a slave, or a member of a small sect of Jews, the Essenes, made up of only men who had separated themselves from the mainstream of Israel. These men would have had to carry their own water but it was highly unusual in a crowded city (Josephus records that in A.D. 66 over 2 million people came for Passover) for these guys

to go out and see a man doing something that was VERY rare. Jesus not only tells them they will find this rare sight but then tells them to *follow him* and then go into the house and *say to the master, 'The Teacher says, "Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"* Then Jesus tells them the man will *show you a large upper room, furnished and prepared; there make ready for us.*" Pretty incredible but in God's providence this is exactly what takes place.

*Suggestion for Prayer:* *Father, thank You for being Sovereign over all things, people, & events. Help me to trust you more understanding and believing that You have everything in hand.*

**THURSDAY** – **Mark 14:17-20:** *"In the evening He came with the twelve. Now as they sat and ate, Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you who eats with Me will betray Me." And they began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, "Is it I?" And another said, "Is it I?" He answered and said to them, "It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish."* There was only one change from the first Passover which had been observed so many centuries ago in Egypt. Then, the meal had been eaten standing as a sign of haste and the quick escape from slavery they were about to experience (**Exodus 12:11**). Now, Jesus and His men recline, a sign of free people, with a home and a country of their own. Mark now records for us some of the particulars about certain conversations and activities of that night around the meal. What an incredible mood altering moment when Jesus interrupts the most sacred feast of the Jewish nation and drops a shocking prophecy out there for those men listening to Him. Jesus is aware of precisely what would take place and aware of the Scripture; *'Even my bosom friend in whom I trusted, who ate of my bread, has lifted the heel against me'* (**Psalms 41:9**). In spite of this we see the courageous character of our Lord Jesus. He could flee but he doesn't. He also knows the heart of Judas and interesting is the fact the other disciples have no suspicions. If they had known they would never have left him leave the room, perhaps not even alive. *They began to be sorrowful, and to say to Him one by one, "Is it I?" And another said, "Is it I?" He answered and said to them, "It is one of the twelve, who dips with Me in the dish.* The men begin to worry if it is them and ask the Lord. Matthew even records at the very end of his record of the meal; *"Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it."* (**Matthew 26:25**) We understand that these conversations were not all public and heard by all the men. The detail about *one who dips with Me in the dish* emphasizes the personal and close nature of this betrayal; meals are where men become and celebrate family. As we mentioned before in this text, right to the very end Jesus offers space for Judas to repent. He seems to make a last appeal and as we will see in **verse 21**, warning him of the consequences. Barclay says, "He is telling him in advance of the consequences of the thing that it is in his heart to do. But we must note this, for it is of the essence of the way in which God deals with us. —*there is no compulsion*. Here is the whole human situation. God has given us wills that are free. His love appeals to us. His truth warns us. But there is no compulsion. We hold the awful responsibility that we can spurn the appeal of God's love and

disregard the warning of his voice. In the end, there is no one but ourselves responsible for our sins.”

*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to love and obey Jesus and to hear the warnings and instruction from Sacred Scripture. I need You to help me Holy Spirit and ask You to do so.*

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY –Mark 14:21:** “*The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had never been born*”. We mentioned the warning Jesus gave Judas and here it is; horrifying, tragic and frightening. As we touched on yesterday, this text and situation brings into crystal clear focus the Sovereignty of God and man’s complete responsibility before God. Intersecting here are the secret counsel of God and the God choices and actions of the human will. In what theologians call “the mystery of concurrence” we see these two streams come together. God in His sovereignty did not coerce Judas to carry out the act of betrayal. God worked His will in and through the choices of His creatures. Make no mistake beloved, Judas did exactly what he wanted to do. He is completely responsible as he spurned God’s grace and warnings repeatedly. In **Genesis 50** we find Joseph’s brothers although under the sovereign hand did exactly what they wanted to do to Joseph and God held them as culpable. We see they feared Joseph’s wrath for they knew THEY had sinned against him; there was no blaming God but God had it planned and carried out His Divine will. As Sacred Scripture records, “*Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good...” (Genesis 50:19-20)* Nowhere in Scripture does predestination and prophecy cancel human responsibility and here is no exception. ...*Woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed* fully maintains the guilt and establishes the doom of this traitor. *It would have been good for that man if he had never been born* stresses the unreal horror of this situation. We end remembering there were eleven men’s hearts there filled with real unrest about being the one mentioned by Jesus. So they ask, “*Is it I?*” In Greek, the question is a negative, expecting a negative answer and each man hopes Jesus give’s one. This is a wonderful opportunity to *examine* ourselves. Jesus gives no specific answer except privately to Judas as He thought it best for these men to meditate on their question.

*Suggestion for Prayer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Thank You for bringing salvation to me a sinful man. Thank You for convicting me of sin and for making it possible and actual for me to be forgiven in Jesus. Help me to examine myself and rest in You; repenting and believing.*