

READ **Matthew 26:17-35** then PRAY

Hook- there are certain moments you remember because they change everything

9/11; the day of your wedding; the birth of a child; the day chick-fil-a opened in Manteca

SERIES: **Dinner with Jesus**

TITLE: **The dinner that changed everything**

**Central Idea: Communion is a reminder that Christ died on the cross,
a reassurance that He will return on the clouds,
and a call to live in response to God's sacrificial love**

Framework:

- **A nourishing *Comfort***
- **A nudging *Challenge***
- **A necessary *Caution***
- **A new *Covenant***
- **A notable *Compassion***
- ***Communion***

A nourishing *Comfort*: God responds to the suffering of His people and delivers those in bondage

¹⁷On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

The Passover was the preparation for Jesus

He is the Lamb that is slain so that its blood will protect

The feast of unleavened bread is a week-long of celebration; the Passover feast was that first evening

It was meant to remember and celebrate that God had delivered the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt

Extensive preparations, including purging the house of any leaven, preparing the lamb etc.

For hundreds and thousands of years the Jewish people had celebrated this....year after year, after year...

It was a reminder that: **God responds to the suffering of His people and delivers those in bondage**

A nudging *Challenge*: No act of obedience is too small

¹⁸"Go into the city to a certain man," he said, "and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My time is near; I am celebrating the Passover at your place with my disciples.'" ¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover. ²⁰When evening came, he was reclining at the table with the Twelve.

This "certain man" is unnamed, unknown, seemingly minimal to the story; it's likely Jesus had talked with him prior no task is insignificant in the Kingdom; no servant is irrelevant

A necessary Caution: There is a way to hell even from the gates of Heaven

²¹ While they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." ²² Deeply distressed, each one began to say to him, "Surely not I, Lord?" ²³ He replied, "The one who dipped his hand with me in the bowl—he will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for him if he had not been born." ²⁵ Judas, his betrayer, replied, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" "You have said it," he told him.

He had concealed his plans from all others, but he could not conceal them from Jesus;

We may be able to hide our sin from those around us, but we cannot hide from the eyes of Christ which see into the hearts of man

Hell is real; Jesus says it is better if Judas had not been born because Hell is real

Pilgrim's Progress- Ignorance makes it to the gates of the Celestial City

"When he was come up to the gate, he looked up to the writing that was above, and then began to knock, supposing that entrance should have been quickly administered to him; but he was asked by the men that looked over the top of the gate, Whence came you, and what would you have? He answered, I have eat and drank in the presence of the King, and he has taught in our streets. Then they asked him for his certificate, that they might go in and show it to the King; so he fumbled in his bosom for one, and found none. Then said they, Have you none? But the man answered never a word. So they told the King, but he would not come down to see him, but commanded the two Shining Ones that conducted Christian and Hopeful to the City, to go out and take Ignorance, and bind him hand and foot, and have him away. Then they took him up, and carried him through the air to the door that I saw in the side of the hill, and put him in there. Then I saw that there was a way to hell, even from the gates of heaven, as well as from the City of Destruction."

Judas shared in the bread, but not the blood; the cup, but not the cross; the ritual but not the reality of it

Judas was close and still missed it; he sat at the table and shared of the meal and still went to hell;

There are people that will be in church, participate, listen to sermons, sing the songs, know theology and still miss the gospel of Jesus

There are those that have enough religion to feel better but not enough to save them

Beware of using Jesus only to improve your life, when what you need is for Him to save you

A new Covenant: Grace through faith

²⁶ As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take and eat it; this is my body." ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ But I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

First the bread- representing his body...incarnation; takes it, blesses it and breaks it; it is the broken bread that Jesus identifies as representing his body

Then the cup, which is the spilled blood of the Lamb

Sin is the greater Egypt; Jesus is the greater Moses; His blood the greatest security/ protection
V.29 two key reasons for celebrating the Lord's Supper. One looks **backward**; the other, **forward**.

First, we commemorate Jesus' redemptive death. Second, we anticipate his return

On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand:

*His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood
When all around my soul gives way
He then is all my hope and stay
On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand*

**A notable Compassion: Your failures do not diminish the love of Jesus towards you
but rather ignite His compassion for you even more.**

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

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "Tonight all of you will fall away because of me, for it is written:

I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.

³² But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

³³ Peter told him, "Even if everyone falls away because of you, I will never fall away."

³⁴ "Truly I tell you," Jesus said to him, "tonight, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."

³⁵ "Even if I have to die with you," Peter told him, "I will never deny you," and all the disciples said the same thing.

As the reality of what's before him sinks in more and more, and the shadow of the cross looms closer and closer, Jesus, knowing all things, points out to his friends that they will all fall away.

None of them can believe it; none of them think so about themselves, and yet Jesus knows it is true.

They **underestimate their own weakness and overestimate their own strength**

But instead of heaping reproaches on them, being angry at them, rebuking them, instead, we see Jesus' sympathy in dealing with them and staying the course

One commentator wrote, "*it is the greatness of Jesus that he knew men at their worst and still loved them*".

Jesus knows our weaknesses; he knows our mistakes; knows our frailty; He knows that we fail to be loyal, but He does not become embittered or show contempt.

His love is not contaminated by our apathy/ weakness/ sin.

It is that very weakness and proclivity towards sin that fueled the mission in the bones of Jesus, that He alone could deliver such a deeply poisoned and helpless people.

Your failures do not diminish the love of Jesus towards you; Your failures ignite His compassion for you all the more.

**Central Idea: Communion is a reminder that Christ died on the cross,
a reassurance that He will return on the clouds,
and a call to live in response to God's sacrificial love**

******CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM*

COMMUNION

Psalms 130 Out of the depths I call to you, Lord!

²Lord, listen to my voice; let your ears be attentive to my cry for help.

³Lord, if you kept an account of iniquities, Lord, who could stand?

⁴But with you there is forgiveness, so that you may be revered.

⁵I wait for the Lord; I wait and put my hope in his word.

⁶I wait for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning— more than watchmen for the morning.

⁷Israel, put your hope in the Lord. For there is faithful love with the Lord, and with him is redemption in abundance.

⁸And he will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Another dinner awaits **Revelation 3:20**

INVITATION

BULPEN-

Craig Blomberg- *"The doctrines of transubstantiation (the bread and wine become Christ's actual body and blood) or consubstantiation (Christ is really present "in, with, and under" the elements) make no sense of Jesus' words in their historical context. As Jesus holds up a loaf and declares, "This is my body," no one listening will ever imagine that he is claiming the bread to be the literal extension of his flesh. Moreover, in Aramaic these sentences would have been spoken without a linking verb ("is"), as simply, this, my body and this, my blood. As frequently elsewhere, Jesus is creating a vivid object lesson."*

The Jewish day started at 6 pm and ended the next day at 6 pm

On that first day (Thursday morning), they would clear the house of any leaven, and prepare unleavened bread

Commemorating how they had to exit Egypt quickly (Exodus 12:34). Dough without leaven cooks quickly.

Leaven (fermented dough) represented all that was rotten and corrupt

They also had to choose a lamb for the meal; it would be slaughtered and eaten that evening

Other preparations included:

- A bowl of salt water to remind them of the tears they shed and of the Red Sea which they crossed
- A collection of bitter herbs to remind them of the bitterness of slavery
- A bunch of hyssop to remind them of when the blood of the lamb had to be smeared on the lintel and doorpost
- A paste called *Charosheth* made of fruits to remind them of the clay which they had to make the bricks back in Egypt
- Four cups of wine to remind them of the four promises in Exodus 6:6-7

Why did God want them to always remember this?

1. To remind them that God
 - a. responds to the suffering of His people
 - b. delivers those in bondage
 - c. keeps safe those who fear Him
2. To redirect them
 - a. Sin is the greater Egypt
 - b. Jesus is the greater Moses
 - c. His blood the greatest security/ protection

V18 there is a subtlety you must not miss!

"at your place"- literally= "with you"

In **Exodus 12:3-4** Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they must each select an animal of the flock according to their fathers' families, one animal per family. ⁴If the household is too small for a whole animal, that person and the neighbor nearest his house are to select one based on the combined number of people; you should apportion the animal according to what each will eat.

I believe there were others also present at the last supper.

Could it be this man was alone? Or his family was in need? I may be stretching the text but one thing is true:

the Lamb is too large not to share

He's been caught and confronted, and yet he continues in his wicked plan

William Barkley- *"There is sin and sin. There is the sin of a passionate heart, of the man who, on the impulse of the moment, swept into wrong doing. Let no man belittle such sin; its consequences can be very terrible. But far worse is the calculated, callous sin of deliberation, which in cold blood knows what it is doing, which is confronted with the bleak, awfulness of the deed and with the love in the eyes of Jesus, and still takes its own way."*

William Barclay states that God seeks to stop a person from sinning by doing two things:

First, he confronts the person with their sin- as if to be shocked away

"Can you really do a thing like that?"

Second, he confronts the person with Himself- to be moved towards Him

"Can you look me in the eyes and still carry out what you purpose in doing?"

Luke 22:15 Then he said to them, "I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

What was Peters' (and the other disciples besides Judas's) fault?

He was too confident in himself and not aware of his blind spots

He loved Jesus...that was never the question,

but **He underestimated his own weakness and overestimated his own strength**

Jeremiah 31:31-34 "Look, the days are coming"—this is the Lord's declaration—"when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ³²This one will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt—my covenant that they broke even though I am their master"—the Lord's declaration. ³³"Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days"—the Lord's declaration. "I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them"—this is the Lord's declaration. "For I will forgive their iniquity and never again remember their sin.

The whole week was called the feast of unleavened bread; the Passover feast was celebrated that first evening

Exodus 12:6b-9 the whole assembly of the community of Israel will slaughter the animals at twilight. ⁷They must take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses where they eat them. ⁸They are to eat the meat that night; they should eat it, roasted over the fire along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

Exodus 12:13 The blood on the houses where you are staying will be a distinguishing mark for you; when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No plague will be among you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Exodus 12: 14-17 "This day is to be a memorial for you, and you must celebrate it as a festival to the Lord. You are to celebrate it throughout your generations as a permanent statute. ¹⁵You must eat unleavened bread for seven days. On the first day you must remove yeast from your houses. Whoever eats what is leavened from the first day through the seventh day must be cut off from Israel. ¹⁶You are to hold a sacred assembly on the first day and another sacred assembly on the seventh day. No work may be done on those days except for preparing what people need to eat—you may do only that. ¹⁷"You are to observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread because on this very day I brought your military divisions out of the land of Egypt. You must observe this day throughout your generations as a permanent statute.

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little leaven leavens the whole batch of dough? ⁷Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new unleavened batch, as indeed you are. For Christ our

Passover lamb has been sacrificed. ⁸Therefore, let us observe the feast, not with old leaven or with the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

V.30- An essential part of the Passover ritual was the singing of the Hallel. *Hallel* means *Praise God!* It consisted of psalms 113-118; at different points of the Passover feast, these songs were sung in sections, and at the very end the great Hallel, which is Psalm 136, was sung. That is likely the hymn they sang before they went out to the mount of olives.

John 13-17 gives us insight into what Jesus was sating that night

We celebrate with a small piece of unleavened bread and a little tiny cup of juice. It's important to note that this represents a meal. The reason why that's important to note is because Jesus isn't just saying that when we gather once a month to partake of communion it's in memory of him, but also anytime we sit for a meal. He is not only the Lord of the communion table he must be the Lord of the dinner table also.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.