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BIBLE STUDY

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**“LORD, IS IT I?”**

**Matthew 26:17-30**

***Matthew 26:17 "Now the first [day] of the [feast of] unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?"***

The Greek word translated “first” is protos. It means the “foremost in time,” “foremost in order,” “beginning” or “to go before.” This precisely describes how the Feast of Passover always precedes or goes before the Days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

***Leviticus 23:5-8***

***5In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's passover.***

***6And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread unto the Lord: seven days ye must eat unleavened bread.***

***7In the first day ye shall have an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.***

***8But ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord seven days: in the seventh day is an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein.***

In the bible, the 24-hour day begins at sunset (6pm). The conversation between Christ and the disciples took place at sunset on the 13th (Tuesday), the beginning of the 14th (Wednesday). Therefore, this verse is not referring to the Holy Day beginning the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It actually refers to the day before that, the 14th of Abib (Nissan), also known as Passover day. This day is the final day in which to prepare for the upcoming First Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Thursday), by putting all leavened bread out of the home.

***Genesis 1:5***

***5And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.***

***Exodus 12:18-19***

***18In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.***

***19Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land.***

***Mark 14:12***

***12And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?***

The Passover commemorated the deliverance of the enslaved Israelites from Egypt by a mighty act of divine redemption. The event serves as a wonderful illustration of the redemption Christ accomplished at Calvary. Jesus, who is our Passover, said over and over that He came not to do away with the law, but to fulfill it. He, also, observed the Passover. The room where the Passover was to be observed had to be prepared ahead. There was quite a cleansing that had to go on before the celebration to remove the leaven (sin).

***Matthew 26:18 "And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith, My time is at hand; I will keep the passover at thy house with my disciples."***

In Luke's writings, he said that Jesus sent Peter and John. The "where" was Jerusalem. The place, that is said to be the place of the Passover feast in Jerusalem today, is still a magnificent building. If this truly was the home of the man, this had to be a very wealthy man. The upper room is unbelievably preserved. The secrecy involved, perhaps, was to keep Judas from knowing ahead of time where Jesus was. "My time is at hand" just mean the crucifixion of Jesus was near. At this Passover, Jesus was the sacrificial Lamb. There is no mention of a lamb being served at this meal with the disciples. The lamb could not be killed until the fourteenth day (Wednesday). This was actually a remembrance of Jesus. The Lamb the disciples ate, was when Jesus told them "This is my body" "This is my blood" speaking of the bread and wine which symbolized His body and blood. This "The Last Supper", was with just His twelve; not even the master of the house dined with them. This large upper room is possibly to be the same room where over fifty days later these same disciples (except for Judas) would come for the infilling of the Holy Spirit of God. The group would have grown to 120, but this room was plenty large to accommodate that many.

***Matthew 26:19 "And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the passover."***

***Matthew 26:20 "Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve."***

***Matthew 26:21 "And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me."***

The thing that stands out to me over and over, and this alone should have told the disciples who Jesus was, is that there was no hassle in finding the man to whom Jesus sent them and the ease of finding the room. This meal of bread, wine, and bitter herbs was to be Jesus' last meal with the disciples before His crucifixion. Here again, Jesus was speaking prophetically when He said that there was one of His own who would betray Him. Remember now, Jesus knew exactly what would befall Him in Jerusalem, but He came anyhow. He knew what His mission was, and He is willing to perform it. Don't you know how this saddened the disciples?

***Matthew 26:22 "And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?"***

***Matthew 26:23 "And he answered and said, He that dippeth [his] hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me."***

***Matthew 26:24 "The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born."***

***Matthew 26:25 "Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said."***

It is almost as if each disciple began to question Himself. Jesus really did not tell them who it was, When He said one who dipped with Him, because they all did. Of course, Judas knew who it was. There are so many schools of thought on Judas. Judas loved money more than anything else, even more than He loved Jesus. The reason Jesus knew who it would be, was because Jesus, as well as the Father, had foreknowledge of what Jesus would do. Jesus was looking ahead to Judas' killing himself and all of eternity, when He said, it would have been better had he not been born. Judas, probably, had not asked Jesus before; He was, probably, afraid Jesus might expose him to the others. In the answer Jesus gave, He did not just say, yes, it is you. The rest of the disciples would have suddenly realized if He had said that, but He answered in such a way that Judas alone would be aware that He knew.

***Jude 1:4***

***4For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.***

***Matthew 26:26 "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed [it], and brake [it], and gave [it] to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body."***

Jesus is the Bread of life. When He took this bread and blessed it, it was like a wave offering. This bread had to be unleavened bread, free of sin to symbolize the body of the Passover Lamb. This unleavened bread, we call Matzah, is full of holes and stripes. The stripes are symbolic for them whipping Jesus. The shewbread in the Temple was symbolic of Jesus, and so was the bread (Manna) which fell from heaven. Jesus was born in Bethlehem (house of Bread) He was and is the Bread of life. Without Him, there is no life. this must have been a shock to the disciples, for at this time, they had not been filled with the Holy Spirit and did not truly discerned His body.

***Matthew 26:27 "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave [it] to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;"***

***Matthew 26:28 "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."***

The word "remission" is interesting, it means freed from or pardon. You see, we were bound down by sin, until we accept the sacrifice of Jesus' blood which freed us from sin. This cup that Jesus raised was, probably, the most important part of salvation, for without the shedding of blood, is no remission. "New Testament" is an interesting statement, as well. This is the last will and testament of Jesus Christ, and we are the heirs or beneficiaries. Jesus purchased our salvation, healing, happiness and very lives with His shed blood. We should never take the communion cup lightly. We must take it reverently with a pure heart. remembering His great sacrifice. We must never take it with hate for our brother in our hearts, or we might become sick or even die. This cup taken properly with a pure heart can bring many blessings of God. This blood was shed for whosoever will. It is offered universally to old and young, rich and poor, male and female. there

***1 Corinthians 11:24-31***

***24And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.***

***25After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.***

***26For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.***

***27Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.***

***28But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.***

***29For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.***

***30For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.***

***31For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.***

***Matthew 26:29 "But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."***

Jesus was telling them of His close departure from the earth. Here, He was speaking of the future marriage supper of the Lamb, in the Father's kingdom.

***Matthew 26:30 "And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives."***

The mount of Olives was Jesus' favorite place to go and commune with God. The garden of Gethsemane is on the mount of Olives.

**QUESTIONS**

1. When did the disciples come to Jesus and ask where they would celebrate passover?
2. Jesus came, not to do away with the law but to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_it.
3. Why was it necessary for them to clean up for passover?
4. How could the disciples find the place for passover?
5. St. Luke said what two disciples went to get the room?
6. What can we learn about this man by his house?
7. Why were they secretive about where it should be held?
8. What does "my time is at hand" mean?
9. Who was the sacraficial Lamb for this passover?
10. What would this room be used again for fifty days after resurrection?
11. In verse 21, what bad news did Jesus give the twelve?
12. What statement was made of Judas when Jesus spoke the woe on him?
13. When did Jesus take bread and break it?
14. What did Jesus say the Bread was?
15. What did the wine symbolize?
16. Why was Jesus' blood shed?
17. What is the New Testament?
18. When a person takes communion unworthily, what is he guilty of?
19. What are two things that might happen to you, if you take communion unworthily?
20. What did they do last before they went to mount Olives?
21. What garden was located on the mount of Olives?