**The Gospel of Luke**

**Lesson 21** Luke 22:1-36 Betrayal/The Last Supper!

**Questions:**

1. What important truth did you learn from the lecture, and how does it apply to your life?
2. Read Wiersbe pages 123-133.

If Judas’ betrayal of Lord was in accordance with God’s will and fulfilled Old Testament prophecy, did Judas have any chance of salvation? Explain.

1. Read Luke 22:1-6 along with the article below entitled, “What is Passover?”

Passover (*Pesach* in Hebrew) is a Jewish festival celebrating the exodus from Egypt and the Israelites’ freedom from slavery to the Egyptians. The Feast of Passover, along with the Feast of Unleavened Bread, was the first of the festivals to be commanded by God for Israel to observe (see Exodus 12). Commemorations today involve a special meal called the Seder, featuring unleavened bread and other food items symbolic of various aspects of the exodus.

Passover is one of the most widely celebrated Jewish holidays. Along with *Shavuot*   
(the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost) and *Sukkot* (the Feast of Tabernacles), Passover is one of the three “pilgrimage” festivals in Scripture, during which the Jews were commanded to travel to Jerusalem and observe the feasts together. Passover takes place in the spring, during the Hebrew month of Nisan. In Western countries, Passover is celebrated in early- to mid-April and is always close to Easter.

The book of Exodus tells of the origin of Passover. God promised to redeem His people from the bondage of Pharaoh (Exodus 6:6). God sent Moses to the Egyptian king with the command that Pharaoh “let my people go” (Exodus 8:1). When Pharaoh refused, God brought ten plagues on the land of Egypt. The tenth and worst of the plagues was the death of all the firstborn in Egypt.

The night of the first Passover was the night of the tenth plague. On that fateful night, God told the Israelites to sacrifice a spotless lamb and mark their doorposts and lintels with its blood (Exodus 12:21–22). Then, when the Lord passed through the nation, He would “pass over” the households that showed the blood (verse 23). In a very real way, the blood of the lamb saved the Israelites from death, as it kept the destroyer from entering their homes. The Israelites were saved from the plague, and their firstborn children stayed alive. From then on, every firstborn son of the Israelites belonged to the Lord and had to be redeemed with a sacrifice (Exodus 13:1–2, 12; cf. Luke 2:22–24).

The children of Israel in Egypt followed God’s command and kept the first Passover. However, none of the Egyptians did so. All through Egypt, behind the unmarked, bloodless doorways of the Egyptians, the firstborn children died at midnight (Exodus 12:21–29). “There was loud wailing in Egypt, for there was not a house without someone dead” (verse 30). This dire judgment finally changed the Egyptian king’s heart, and he released the Israelite slaves (verses 31–32).

Along with the instruction to apply the Passover lamb’s blood to their doorposts and lintels, God instituted a commemorative meal: fire-roasted lamb, bitter herbs, and unleavened bread (Exodus 12:8). The Lord told the Israelites to “observe this rite as a statute for you and for your sons forever” (Exodus 12:24, ESV), even when in a foreign land.

To this day, Jews all over the world celebrate the Passover in obedience to this command. Passover and the story of the exodus have great significance for Christians also, as Jesus Christ fulfilled the Law, including the symbolism of the Passover (Matthew 5:17). Jesus is our Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7; Revelation 5:12). He was killed at Passover time, and the Last Supper was a Passover meal (Luke 22:7–8). By (spiritually) applying His blood to our lives by faith, we trust Christ to save us from death. The Israelites who, in faith, applied the blood of the Paschal lamb to their homes become a model for us. It was not the Israelites’ ancestry or good standing or amiable nature that saved them; it was only the blood of the lamb that made them exempt from death (see John 1:29 and Revelation 5:9–10).[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Read Exodus 11-12. PASSOVER! The Israelites had been enslaved in Egypt for over 400 years. God chose Moses to be the one to set them free from their bondage to slavery. To this end, God brought a total of ten plagues (Exodus 7-12) against the Egyptians as directed by Moses. The tenth plague brought upon the Egyptians was the plague on the firstborn. At midnight, the Lord himself would pass throughout Egypt. Every firstborn son in Egypt from the firstborn son of Pharoah to the firstborn son of the slave girl and all the firstborn of the cattle as well would be struck down and die. However, for the Israelites, they were instructed to follow certain procedures in order to be shielded from this outpouring of the wrath of God.
2. List the procedures (4-5 actions) each Israelite family was to follow:
3. What was this event later called and is still called to this day in Israel?
4. How often were the Israelites to celebrate Passover?
5. How does Passover symbolize the death of Christ on the cross? For additional help read Hebrews 9:22 along with 1 Thessalonians 1:10. Also, focus on Exodus 12:13, “The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are: and when I see the blood, I will **pass over** you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.”
6. Who influenced Judas to betray Jesus?
7. Read Psalm 41:9, Zechariah 11:12-13 along with Matthew 27:1-10. How was Judas’ betrayal the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy?
8. Read Luke 22:7-23 along with the article below entitled, “What is the meaning and importance of the Last Supper?”
9. What festival was being celebrated on the night of the Last Supper?
10. According to the article below, what were the six things Jesus used the Last Supper   
    to accomplish?
11. Communion involves the bread and the wine.
    1. Verse 19 states, “And 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.’”

* To what aspect of Jesus’ sacrificial death does this point?
* Read John 6:35 and 48-51. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.” How does the eating of the communion bread echo this saying of Jesus?
  1. Verse 20 states, “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.’”
* To what aspect of Jesus’ sacrificial death does this point?
* Why is the blood of Christ so important (Hebrews 9:22)?
* Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. What did Jesus mean in saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you?” What is this new covenant and how does it abolish the old covenant which was based on the Law of Moses? (Hint: In the Old Covenant, the Israelites were required to obey God and keep   
  the Law, and in return He protected and blessed them (Deuteronomy 30:15–18;   
  1 Samuel 12:14–15). In the New Covenant, things change, and God becomes   
  the proactive and unconditional source of salvation and blessing. In the New Covenant, “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).)[[2]](#footnote-2)

1. How will you approach communion differently after studying this chapter in detail?   
   Do you see it from a new perspective?

The Last Supper is what we call the last meal Jesus ate with His disciples before His betrayal   
and arrest. The Last Supper is recorded in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 26:17–30; Mark 14:12–26; Luke 22:7–30). It was more than Jesus’ last meal; it was a Passover meal, as well.   
One of the important moments of the Last Supper is Jesus’ command to remember what He was about to do on behalf of all mankind: shed His blood on the cross thereby paying the debt of our sins (Luke 22:19).  
  
In addition to predicting His suffering and death for our salvation (Luke 22:15–16), Jesus also used the Last Supper to imbue the Passover with new meaning, institute the New Covenant, establish an ordinance for the church, and foretell Peter’s denial of Him (Luke 22:34) and Judas Iscariot’s betrayal (Matthew 26:21–24).  
  
The Last Supper brought the Old Testament observance of the Passover feast to its fulfillment. Passover was an especially holy event for the Jewish people in that it commemorated the time when God spared them from the plague of physical death and brought them out of slavery in Egypt (Exodus 11:1 to 13:16). During the Last Supper with His apostles, Jesus took two symbols associated with Passover and imbued them with fresh meaning as a way to remember His sacrifice, which saves us from spiritual death and delivers us from spiritual bondage: “After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, ‘Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’ And 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.’ 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’” (Luke 22:17–20).  
  
Jesus’ words during the Last Supper about the unleavened bread and the cup echo what He   
had said after He fed the 5,000: “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. . .. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which   
I will give for the life of the world. . .. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink” (John 6:35, 51, 54–55). Salvation comes through Christ and the sacrifice of His physical body   
on the cross.  
  
Also during the Last Supper, Jesus taught the principles of servanthood and forgiveness as   
He washed His disciples’ feet: “The greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the   
one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the   
one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves” (Luke 22:26–27; John 13:1–20).  
  
The Last Supper today is remembered during the Lord’s Supper, or communion (1 Corinthians 11:23–33). The Bible teaches that Jesus’ death was typified in the offering of the Passover sacrifice (John 1:29). John notes that Jesus’ death resembles the Passover sacrifice in that His bones were not broken (John 19:36; cf. Exodus 12:46). And Paul said, “Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed” (1 Corinthians 5:7). Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law, including   
the feasts of the Lord (Matthew 5:17).  
  
Typically, the Passover meal was a family celebration. However, at the Last Supper, the apostles were alone with Jesus (Luke 22:14), which suggests that this particular meal has specific meaning for the church, of which the apostles became the foundation (Ephesians 2:20). While the Last Supper had implications for the Jews, it was designed for the church as well. Today the Lord’s Table is one of two ordinances observed by the church.  
  
The Last Supper was rooted in the Old Covenant even as it heralded the New. Jeremiah 31:31 promised a New Covenant between God and Israel, in which God said, “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people” (Jeremiah 31:33). Jesus made a direct reference to this New Covenant during the Last Supper: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood” (Luke 22:20). A new dispensation was on the horizon. In God’s grace, the New Covenant applies to more than Israel; everyone who has faith in Christ will be saved (see Ephesians 2:12–14).  
  
The Last Supper was a significant event and proclaimed a turning point in God’s plan for the world. In comparing the crucifixion of Jesus to the feast of Passover, we can readily see the redemptive nature of Christ’s death. As symbolized by the original Passover sacrifice in the Old Testament, Christ’s death atones for the sins of His people; His blood rescues us from death and saves us from slavery. Today, the Lord’s Supper is when believers reflect upon Christ’s perfect sacrifice and know that, through our faith in receiving Him, we will be with Him forever (Luke 22:18; Revelation 3:20).[[3]](#footnote-3)

1. Read Luke 22:24-30. In this section Jesus turns things upside down. What insight do you gain about leading like Christ? How will you implement this new insight into how you lead at work and at home?
2. Read Luke 22:31-38.
   1. What did Jesus convey to Peter that must have rocked his world?
   2. What did Jesus tell Peter to do when he turned back to the Lord?
      1. Have you ever betrayed Christ?
      2. If yes, what do you think the Lord desires for you to do?
   3. Why do you think Jesus now instructs the disciples to carry a purse, a bag and a sword? What is getting ready to change (John 15:18-20)?
   4. Read Hebrews 53:12. Verse 37 states, “And he was numbered with the transgressors.” Jesus said, “I tell you that this must be fulfilled. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment.”
      1. What was Jesus trying to explain to his disciples?
      2. Read Acts 2:23. Do you see that Jesus was on a divinely timed and appointed course for his entire life? What does this tell you about the Word of God?
3. What is the greatest lesson you take away from this chapter?

1. “What is Passover?” Got Questions Ministries, accessed October 11, 2022, [https://www.gotquestions.org/what-is-Passover.html] [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. What was the Old Covenant? Got Questions Ministries, accessed October 12, 2022, [https://www.gotquestions.org/old-covenant.html] [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “What is the meaning and importance of the Last Supper?” Got Questions Ministries, accessed October 11, 2022, [https://www.gotquestions.org/Last-Supper.html] [↑](#footnote-ref-3)