

A New Day

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Introduction

“Maundy” means “law”, so we usually talk about the New Commandment that Jesus gives, *“Love one another; as I have loved you, you also are to love one another” (John 13:34)*. But that wasn’t all that was new. From that night on, everything would be new. Once Jesus was crucified, the world would be living under the **NEW COVENANT**. Yes, after tonight, everything will change. One of the changes Jesus instituted in that room had to do with the **PASSOVER**. That was why they were there, Jesus wanted to celebrate the Passover with them one last time (read **Luke 22:14-16**). But in this Passover meal, Jesus took the familiar and changed it to something new.

From Passover to Lord’s Supper

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me” (1 Corinthians 11:23-24). I’ve seen paintings of Jesus taking a loaf of bread, breaking off part and passing it around. But this was the **Passover**; the bread was **unleavened**, not a loaf. It was unleavened because there wasn’t time to wait for bread to rise. They were in a hurry to leave Egypt. Leaven also stands for sin. But there’s more meaning to it than that.

The Bread

There are three pieces of bread. At one point in the meal, the middle one is taken out and broken. A part of it becomes the **AFIKOMEN** (“coming one”, a clear reference to the Messiah) and is wrapped and hidden. At the end of the meal, it’s brought back, distributed to each participant and eaten as the final morsel. This was what Jesus blessed, broke and distributed. When He added the words, *“this is My body”*, He was saying, “I am the Messiah you’ve been waiting for. My body will be broken in death, wrapped in a cloth and hidden, or buried. But I will be resurrected and come back.”

The Cup

There are four cups used. They are the cup of **SANCTIFICATION**; the cup of **PLAGUES**; the cup of **REDEMPTION** or the cup of **BLESSING**; and the cup of **PRAISE**. Jesus took the one *after they had eaten (Luke 22:20)* and said, *“This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood” (Luke 22:20)*. That was the third cup, the cup of **redemption** or **blessing**

Blessing/Redemption

St. Paul calls it, *the cup of blessing that we bless*, as well as *the cup of the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:16, 21)*. We are blessed by the blood of Jesus, as it pays the price for our sin. By paying that price, He bought us back for God. We have been purchased by the blood, **redeemed**. He is our **Redeemer**.

New Covenant

Jesus makes a direct reference to the promise of **Jeremiah 31** (read **Jeremiah 31:31-33**). God had declared that He would make a new covenant because the previous covenant had become *broken (Jeremiah 31:32)*. To violate a covenant agreement with God would incur His **wrath** and **judgment**—a

terrible cup! But instead, God promised a new covenant of **grace** and **salvation**. Jesus declared that this new covenant would be poured from the cup of salvation in His blood. The cup of redemption stood for more than the Hebrews' escape from Egypt; it stood for the **plan and purpose of God for all the ages**. Judgment and salvation, wrath and redemption are brought together in the mystery of one cup, explained by Jesus in that upper room. He was not speaking of the cup in a purely symbolic manner. He was describing events that would soon occur in His own life.

Means of Grace

Jesus took the **PASSOVER** and gave us one of the **Means of Grace**, the **LORD'S SUPPER**. When we partake of it, we declare that Jesus is the **Messiah, broken and killed** for our **redemption**, that He was **raised** to a new life to be the **Mediator** of the **New Covenant** with God. We are God's people because of Him. It is a **NEW DAY**, indeed!

*May the peace of God,
Which passes all understanding,
Keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
