

Peace in the Supper

Luke 22:1—23:56 (22:14—23)

Introduction

The Christian worship service revolves around the Service of the Word and the Service of the Table. When Jesus says, “This is My body,” “This is My blood,” He means it. He’s not saying that the bread and wine are symbols or images of His body and blood. When we receive Holy Communion, we receive the real body and blood of our Lord. This is great, and it gives us peace, like we’ve been talking about the last five weeks. But let’s take a closer look at the Supper and see what it says about Jesus and our **PEACE IN THE SUPPER**.

The Passover Meal – The Seder

Jesus and His disciples were eating the Passover meal, the Seder. This meal is normally eaten by a family. That He was eating it with His disciples shows the kind of relationship they had; they were a family with Jesus as Head of the house. There was a liturgy involved, because this was a religious event. It commemorated the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt. After the first cup of wine, called the cup of Sanctification, was shared by all, the youngest son would ask why they were eating this meal and what they were celebrating. Then the liturgy would begin, and that’s where we pick up the reading in **Luke 22**.

Reinterpreting the Seder

The head of the household would explain the meanings of the foods they were eating and retell the exodus story. Instead of the exodus, Jesus reinterprets the meal in light of His crucifixion and second coming, when He says, *“I tell you that I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God”* (**Luke 22:16**). They had shared this meal before. But this is the first time He has said this. The meaning of what they were doing was about to change.

Deliverer

Then He took another cup of wine and had them share it. This second cup of wine is called the Cup of Deliverance. Just as God delivered Israel from the bondage of slavery to the Egyptians, Jesus delivers us from the bondage of slavery to sin, death, and the devil. He has defeated our most fearsome foe, the devil on the cross, and fights to keep us out of his evil clutches. He takes away our sin and gives us His Spirit, so we are no longer enslaved to sin. Death, the last foe has no hold over us because Jesus has conquered it and gives us eternal life.

Passover Lamb

Then Jesus [*blessed*] *and broke bread* (v. 19). After pronouncing a blessing on it, the head of the house would break a piece of matzo, then take part of it and wrap it and hide it. The other part would be broken and shared by all. The children would look for the hidden part and the one who found it got a reward. It was also used as a substitute for the Passover lamb, if one was not available. Since Jesus says this is His body, it shows how His body will be broken, wrapped, hidden in the tomb, and resurrected. He is our Passover Lamb, who was crucified, buried, and raised for us. The blood of the Passover lamb on the doorposts of the Israelites' houses protected them from the angel of death when he visited Egypt that fateful night. The blood of Jesus Christ protects us from the death of sin.

Redeemer

The cup that He calls the “*new covenant in My blood*” (v. 20) is the cup of Redemption. He is our Redeemer, as Peter says in the first chapter of his first epistle (read **1 Peter 1:18—19**). We have **PEACE IN THE SUPPER** because, through His death and resurrection, Jesus, the Lamb of God, takes away our sin, redeems us, and delivers us from sin, death, and the devil.

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
