

Mark 14:22-28 *And as they did eat [as the disciples ate the Passover meal], Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, "Take, eat: **this is my body.**"*<sup>23</sup> *And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.*<sup>24</sup> *And he said unto them, "**This is my blood** of the new testament, which is shed for many.*<sup>25</sup> *Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God."*<sup>26</sup> *And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.*<sup>27</sup> *And Jesus saith unto them, "All ye shall be offended because of me [All of you will abandon me] this night: for it is written, 'I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered [quote from Zechariah 13:7].'*<sup>28</sup> *But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee."*

## I. Introduction

- A. Supper/Dinner: Today's American society has diluted our concept of the meal time associated with The Last Supper. Much preparation went into preparing meals in these days [read Mark 14:12-17]. Usually, the mother would prepare food all day for this single time together with her family. Today's meals are not eaten together very often, and frequently the focus is on finishing quickly in order to get back to what needs to get done in other areas of our lives. 'Fast food' and 'drive-throughs' never occurred to the people of Jesus' time.
- B. This particular supper was Jesus' last meal before His arrest and execution. Much happened during this one meal:
  1. Jesus told the disciples that one of them would betray Him (Mark 14:18). None of the other 11 disciples suspected Judas Iscariot any more than they doubted their own loyalty (Mark 14:19).
  2. Jesus identifies Judas as His betrayer (Matthew 26:23-25), who then leaves the meal (John 13:27-30). The disciples even then didn't suspect Judas as the betrayer
  3. An argument ensues as to who will be the greatest among the disciples when Jesus establishes His kingdom (Luke 22:24-26).
  4. Jesus washes the disciple's feet as an example to them of both leadership and humility (John 13:5-16)
  5. Jesus predicts Peter's denial of him before the next sunrise (Luke 22:31-34)
  6. The establishment of a remembrance for the events that were about to happen. We refer to this event as The Lord's Supper, or Communion (Mark 14:22-28).

## II. A Picture (verses 22-25)

A. A picture of the church: The example of Jesus and His disciples was a preview of the church: The Shepherd with His flock; the pastor with His congregation. Jesus had called them out from their world to be set apart for Him. The church is referred to as 'the body of Christ' in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:12).

1. We are called out from the world to be set apart, belonging to Jesus, because of the price He paid for our redemption

2 Corinthians 6:17 *Wherefore **come out from among them** [the world], and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

2. We are called to remember who our Shepherd is by focusing on the body and blood that was paid for us by Jesus.

1 Corinthians 7:23 *Ye [all Christians] are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.*

B. A picture of the broken body of Jesus: The bread represents the body of Christ, which was broken for us on the cross (verse 22)

Isaiah 50:6 *I [God's promised Anointed One] gave my back to the smiters [to those who beat me], and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair [that ripped out my beard]: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.*

1. A picture we shouldn't forget. The ordinance of the Lord's Supper was established by Jesus so we would be reminded periodically of the price He had to pay for God's plan for our salvation (1 Corinthians 11:24).

2. A picture of the reason for Jesus' sacrifice: our only hope of redemption.

a. God does not want us to go through our lives sinning, then bringing Him sacrifices so that we can be forgiven (see 1 Samuel 15:22)

Hebrews 10:5-6 <sup>5</sup> *Wherefore **when he** [Jesus] **cometh into the world**, he saith, "Sacrifice and offering thou wouldst not [God does not want to see more and more animals sacrificed to cover more and more sins], **but a body hast thou prepared me:**"<sup>6</sup> *In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.**

b. God does want us to live lives that continually require fewer sacrifices. We are to sanctify ourselves, refraining from those things that caused Jesus to go to the cross.

2 Timothy 2:21 *If a man therefore purge himself from these [if a man removes from his life everything that is dishonorable (see previous verse)], he shall be a vessel unto honor [he shall be a person ready to serve honorably], sanctified, and meet for the master's use [and equipped for use by the Master], and prepared unto every good work.*

### 3. A picture of the transfer of Testaments

Hebrews 10:9 *Then said he* [Jesus], *“Lo, I come to do thy will, O God.” He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second*

- a. The end of the Old Testament economy of Law and sacrifices (*“He taketh away the first...”*)

Hebrews 10:10-12 <sup>10</sup> *By the which will* [By the will (from verse 9, above) of God] *we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.*  
<sup>11</sup> *And every* [Jewish] *priest standeth daily ministering* [serving God] *and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man* [Jesus], *after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;*

- b. The establishment of the New Testament economy of grace through faith, verse 24 (*“...that he may establish the second”*)

1 Peter 2:24 *Who his* [Jesus] *own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

### C. A picture of the shed blood of Jesus (verses 23-25):

1 Corinthians 11:25 *After the same manner also* [In the same way that He had taken the bread] *he took the cup, when he* [Jesus] *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.”*

1. Jesus gave thanks for the juice they were all about to drink, verse 23 *“...and when he had given thanks...”*. Even though Jesus rightfully owned this juice, He still gave thanks.
  - Jesus created the vine from which the grapes were taken to make the juice.
  - Jesus created the people who pick the grapes and processed them into juice.
  - Jesus created the soil in which the vine grew.
  - Jesus created the water which fed the vine its nutrition.
  - Jesus created the sun which allowed the plant to process the water to make the grapes.
  - Jesus placed the earth in just the right place in the solar system to ensure that it was neither too cold (which would freeze the water), nor too hot (which would turn the water into vapor) for the vine to grow.
  - Jesus designed the earthly environment in which they thrived
2. Jesus' blood declares conformance with the Old Testament pattern of a blood sacrifice needed for the forgiveness of believers, verse 24: *“... This is my blood...which is shed for many ...”*

3. Jesus' blood declares salvation is available to all people

1 Peter 3:18 *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins* [Christ suffered for sins only once], *the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened* [brought back to life] *by the Spirit:*

4. Jesus' blood also declares the transfer of Testaments. The Old Testament was Jesus' "last will and testament," and Jesus' death made possible all the promises of HIS will to be put into effect.

Hebrews 9:15-17, 22b *And for this cause* [And to make it possible for us to serve the living God (from verse 14)] **he** [Jesus] **is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament** [that because of Jesus' death the transgressions from Old Testament times were fully redeemed], *they which are called* [those Old Testament believers] **might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is** [a person's "last will and testament", made before he dies], *there must also of necessity be the death of the testator* [the person who wrote the will must die]. *For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise, it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth* [otherwise the "last will and testament" won't affect anything while the person who wrote it is alive] ... *without shedding of blood is no remission* [forgiveness].

Ephesians 1:7 *In whom* [Jesus] **we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;**

5. Jesus' blood declares His deity and His sole authority to forgive sins

Acts 20:28b [The Apostle Paul speaking to a group of Ephesian elders] *Take heed therefore unto yourselves* [Be careful about your own testimony], *and to all the flock* [and to the sanctification of your local church congregation], *over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers* [pastors], **to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.**

a. The blood spoken of here can only be the blood of Jesus. Since "...he hath purchased..." "...the church of God..." "...with his own blood", Jesus is declared to be God. (The words here are simply reordered, not changed in any other way.)

b. Jesus' blood is the price that was paid to buy us from slavery to sin and set us free to belong to His household.

John 8:34-36 *Jesus answered them* [His disciples when He was in the Jerusalem Temple], *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant* [slave] **of sin. And the servant** [slave] **abideth not in the house for ever** [a slave will not always be in the same house]: *but the Son abideth ever* [but a Son will always be in the same house]. *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."*

6. Jesus' blood is declared superior to prior methods of forgiving sins

Hebrews 9:13-14 *For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh* [If these Old Testament sacrifices could sanctify a believer on the outside]: **How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience** [purge you on the inside] *from dead works to serve the living God?*

III. A Praise: (verse 26) "...And when they had sung an hymn, they went out..."

A. Remembering the Jewish Passover

1. The Passover angel would spare those who believed enough to put the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of their house. The angel would not enter that house with the plague and kill their firstborn (Exodus 12:13)
2. The Passover lamb had to be sacrificed to provide the blood. Jesus was here celebrating, as He had His entire life, the event that freed the Jewish slaves from their Egyptian masters. (Exodus 12:5-7) Jesus was here participating, as the Passover Lamb, in the sacrifice that will keep the plague of death from affecting us
3. The Jews would sing a Psalm during the Passover feast, probably from among Psalms 113-118 (called the "Hallel," which means "greatly praised"). For example:

An example would be Psalm 115, which compare The One True God to the idols of the nations surrounding Israel who have ears that cannot hear and eyes that cannot see.

B. Remembering to praise God through speaking and singing

Ephesians 5:19 *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*

1. Singing a Psalm: God is praised when we acknowledge the Truth of His word by singing or reciting it back to Him.
2. Singing songs that:
  - a. Glorify God: God is praised when voices are raised, individually or collectively, to honor God.
  - b. Are doctrinally correct: God is praised when songwriters struggle to make lyrics and music that are completely consistent with the Scriptures.

- IV. A Promise (verse 27-28) “...after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.”
- A. He will rise after His sacrifice “...after that I am risen...”
1. Jesus predicted His own:
    - a. Method of death, at least three times in each of the four gospels, see (as examples) Luke 9:22; Luke 9:44-45; Luke 18:31-33; Luke 22:2
    - b. Resurrection: This one thing is unique in the history of the earth
      - i. No one else has ever made this claim before his/her death and been verified
      - ii. The Bible is so confident of this one resurrection that it states that, if it is not true, we have no other hope for the future, 1 Corinthians 15:14;
  2. He will come back to this earth after His resurrection: “...I will go before you into Galilee.” The disciples were familiar with this geography. If Jesus was not to rise bodily He would not be able to tell the disciples where they would see Him again.
- B. He will be deserted by His disciples (verse 27): “All ye shall be offended because of me [all of you will abandon me] *this night...*”
1. Peter denied his Lord three times before the sun came up (Mark 14:66-72)
  2. Judas, after betraying Jesus, was so remorseful that he committed suicide (Matthew 27:3-5)
  3. None of the other disciples could be found standing up for Jesus at any of His three trials. (John the Apostle does show up later at His crucifixion with Jesus’ mother, John 19:25-27)
  4. The next time we see the 11 remaining Disciples together they are hiding in an upper room in fear (John 20:19)
- V. Conclusion: Looking back on the events of the first Communion, the Disciples had reason to be confused
- A. Jesus had predicted His own death, burial, and resurrection, but this was the first time it had ever happened. They didn’t know exactly what to expect. If we put ourselves in their situation, we probably would not have done any better.
- B. The Church today has no such excuse. We know exactly what happened. We need to be bold to declare this Gospel. We should be excited when we think that Jesus is alive today and what that means for our future.
- 1 Corinthians 15:34 *Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God* [for some of you don’t know God at all]: *I* [the Apostle Paul] *speak this to your shame.*