

Matthew 26:17-25 The Passover Supper

Introduction: The first two Passover suppers which Jesus ate with His disciples must have been more pleasant. This one was not pleasant at all. One wonders just how everybody stayed so calm when inside there must have been a raging storm. The day of the Passover is the day that Jesus said He would be crucified. Judas especially must have been nervous. He had already contracted to notify the chief priests and elders when a good time arrives for them to take Jesus away from the crowds.

I. The preparation for the Passover supper, verses 17-19.

- A. The disciples were trying to be calm and go about business as usual.
 - 1. They had come to Jerusalem to eat the Passover supper.
 - 2. The time had arrived to prepare the Passover meal.
- B. So they asked, “Where do you want us to go and prepare?” verse 17.
- C. According to Luke (Luke 22:8) Jesus sent only Peter and John to prepare, verse 18.
 - 1. He did not tell the name or the location of the house but said, “the man will be carrying a pitcher of water,” Luke 22:10.
 - 2. He did not want Judas to know in advance where they would be.
- D. Peter and John did as the Lord said, verse 19.
 - 1. They contacted the man with the pitcher of water and secured the meeting place.
 - 2. Then they had a busy afternoon and evening making preparation.
 - 3. They obtained the lamb, had it killed, cooked the lamb and the bread, and prepared all the other items for the meal.

II. Eating the Passover supper, verse 20-22.

- A. Verse 20 just says that they sat down to eat the supper.
 - 1. However they did not arrive until it was time to go and eat.
 - 2. Jesus was the only one who could lead the way and He did not do so until it was time to eat. (Dark)
 - 3. Judas had no opportunity to send for the chief priests.
- B. The evening time marked the beginning of a new day, the fourteenth day of Nisan, the day of the Passover feast.
 - 1. This day would not end until the following evening.
 - 2. Hence the crucifixion, which did not come until the next day (the way we count time) was on the same day the way the Jews counted time.
- C. At the supper Jesus announced that one of the twelve would betray Him, verse 21.
 - 1. This was the subject they had all been avoiding.
 - 2. Jesus brought it out into the open.
- D. They were devastated at the idea that one of them would betray Him, verse 22.
- E. They began to ask, “Is it I?” verse 22b.
 - 1. You would think they would each be suspicious of the other.
 - 2. You would at least think they would suspect Judas.

III. A partial identification of the betrayer, verse 23. It narrows it down but does not nail it down.

- A. John in his record reveals that he was sitting next to Jesus and that Peter told him to ask Jesus who the betrayer is.
- B. John did ask, and Jesus says that it would be one dipping in the sop (sauce) with Him, verse 23.
 - 1. There would be more than one bowl on the table and several dipping from the same dish which Jesus dipped into.

2. Thus it would be one of those seated near Jesus and dipping into the same bowl with Him.
 3. Judas was in that number, but was not the only one.
- C. This partial identification was enough to put the fright into him.

IV. The warning to the betrayer, verse 24.

- A. It was at this point when Judas was frightened by the partial identification that Jesus warned him, verse 24.
1. It would be better had he died in his mother's womb.
 2. It would be better for any man to be stillborn than to go to hell.
- B. This warning was calculated to try and get him to repent and be saved.
1. Jesus still loved him and wanted him to be saved.
 2. Judas was trying to betray Jesus to those who would kill Him.
 3. Jesus was trying to get Judas to be saved.

V. The question of Judas and the positive identification, verse 25.

- A. Judas asked, "Master, is it I?" verse 25.
1. He knew full well that it was.
 2. He played the part of the Christian to the end.
 3. Playing the part of a Christian won't get it; one must be a Christian to get to heaven.
- B. Jesus answered, "Thou hast said."
1. You have said it right. You are the man.
 2. This was apparently a private conversation between Jesus and Judas which somehow the others did not hear.
- C. John says that Jesus then answered that the one to whom He could give the sop, he is the man, John 13:26.
1. Then He gave the sop to Judas.
 2. He told Judas, "What you do, do quickly." John 13:27.
 3. Still the other disciples did not realize that Judas had been identified as the betrayer, John 13:28.

Conclusion:

1. Jesus knows every man. – He knew the man who owned the house. He knew Judas. He knows us all.
2. He knows all about every man. – He knew the man would be carrying a pot of water and would let Him use his house. He knew Judas would betray Him. He knows our innermost thoughts. He knows our every deed.
3. He knows the future of every man. He knew that terrible suffering was in store for Judas.
4. He loves every man. (Even Judas.)
5. He would soon die for every man.

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