

## Matthew 26:26-30 The Establishment of the Lord's Supper

Introduction: In our last text Jesus ate the Passover with His disciples. In our text today He establishes a new supper, the Lord's Supper. The Passover was an Old Testament institution to be observed by each Jewish family. The Lord's Supper is a New Testament institution to be observed by each local New Testament church.

### I. The closing of one supper and the beginning of another.

- A. They were still eating the Passover when Jesus began to explain the new supper. (“And as they were eating . . . .”), verse 26.
  - 1. They were essentially through with the Passover.
  - 2. Some of them were probably still chewing.
- B. Throughout the Passover meal Jesus had been explaining its meaning to the disciples.
  - 1. It was the custom for somebody at the meal to do so and He would be the appropriate one to do so.
  - 2. He would remind them of the first Passover. (In bondage in Egypt: the Passover lamb was killed, the blood was sprinkled, the lamb was eaten with bitter herbs, the death angel came through, the Hebrews were spared and delivered from bondage.)
- C. Now Jesus begins to explain the meaning of the new supper.

### II. The bread.

- A. Jesus took bread from the Passover table, verse 26.
  - 1. It was unleavened bread representing purity. (Leaven represented impurity or sin.)
  - 2. This represented the pure sinless life of Jesus even though He lived in a fleshly body. (Hence, a sinless body.)
  - 3. It was necessary for Jesus to live a sinless life in order to be a substitute for others in His death.
- B. He blessed the bread, verse 26.
  - 1. He prayed and asked the blessings of the Father upon it.
  - 2. He asked the Father to use this bread and this supper for the spiritual good of the disciples.
  - 3. He asked the Father to use it to His own honor and glory.
  - 4. Some teach that the blessed bread literally became His body. (Not so. If so He would have had two bodies.)
  - 5. Some teach that even today the blessed bread literally becomes the body of Jesus. (Not so. It looks like bread, smells like bread, tastes like bread. It is bread. It does not have a head, hair, torso, feet, hands, legs, or arms.)
  - 6. It is figuratively His body; it represents His body.
- C. He broke the bread, verse 26.
  - 1. The broken bread represents His broken body on the cross.
  - 2. His bones were not broken, but His body was even to death.
  - 3. His back was slashed, His brow was pierced, His hands and feet and side were pierced.

### III. The cup.

- A. The cup likewise was taken from the Passover table, verse 27.
- B. The contents of the cup was the juice of grapes. (Called “the fruit of the vine”, verse 29.)
- C. The juice or blood of the grapes represented the blood of Jesus, which would be shed a little later on the cross.
- D. He said that this is the blood of the New Testament which is shed for many for the

remission of sins, verse 28.

1. The blood of the Old Testament was the blood of animals and could not take away sin.
2. But the blood of the New Testament is the blood of Jesus Christ and His blood can take away sin, I John 1:7.
3. It was shed that all might have the opportunity for their sins to be forgiven.

IV. The pledge to return.

- A. For near two thousand years His churches have been observing this supper, but Jesus in bodily form was not present, verse 29.
- B. But one of these days he will come again.
  1. He will come for those whom He has saved.
  2. He will raise them from the dead.
  3. This is the hope of the Christian.
  4. After that promise they sang an hymn and went out to the Mount of Olives, verse 30.

V. The message of the two suppers.

- A. The message of the Passover Supper was that Jesus would shed His blood and that through His blood is deliverance from bondage to sin.
- B. The message of the Lord's Supper is that the blood of Jesus has been shed.
  1. It was shed near two thousand years ago.
  2. It was shed that lost sinners might trust in Him and be saved, Acts 16:31; Romans 8:1.
- C. You cannot be saved by being good, Titus 3:5.
  1. You cannot be saved by keeping the Law.
  2. You cannot be saved by observing the Lord's Supper.
  3. You can only be saved by trusting in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion: I wonder if there is somebody here today who has not yet been saved. If you are still in danger of hell fire and you want to be saved, then trust in Jesus right now.

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