

## **Do This in Remembrance of Me**

Luke 22:14-15 *When the hour had come, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him. 15 And He said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer ....*

Why was Jesus so interested in having this Passover with the disciples before He went to the cross? What is Passover and why was it significant?

### **I. The Original Passover**

The first Passover was the tenth plague God performed against Egypt before Pharaoh released the Hebrews. God had given Pharaoh several chances to submit to God's will, but Pharaoh refused. This last act of God against the Egyptians would convince Pharaoh to let the Hebrews leave.

Exodus 12:5-8, 11 *'Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 'You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight. 7 'Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8 'They shall eat the flesh that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 11 'Now you shall eat it in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste — it is the Lord's Passover.*

Notice the details: Unblemished lamb or goat. It would be killed and the blood placed on the doorframe of each house. The lamb would be roasted and eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. The bitter herbs were a reminder of the bitter years of slavery. The bread was unleavened because it did not have time to rise – God was going to act quickly. Loins girded, sandals on your feet, staff in your hand – eat it in haste. God was about to do something – big!!

The first Passover was celebrated in individual homes (just as we are celebrating the Lord's Supper).

God would like to do something during this unique time. He would like you to draw near to Him and for your family to draw near to each other.

We may not have a choice about staying home. We may not have a choice about all the ways this virus affects us, but we do have a choice about our attitude toward it. If we are going to be at home more, we might as well make the most of it. Decide there will be good that comes out of this – then do your best to make it happen. Have a party – not a pity party. Plan to make good memories.

Psalms 32:8-9 *I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.*

*<sup>9</sup> Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you.*

God does not want to have to force you to come to Him. You have a choice. We may be at home against our will, but we can still choose to draw near to God. Also draw near to your family.

This is a good time to have spiritual conversations throughout the week. Read Scripture together – a shorter passage for younger children. Read The Chronicles of Narnia at night (or find another book).

Exodus 12:12-14 *'For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments — I am the Lord. 13 'The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. 14 'Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance.*

Everyone in the Hebrew camp had been a slave all their lives – their parents had been slaves all their lives – slavery was all they had ever known. Now they were going to be set free and God knew it before it happened. **Before the Hebrews celebrated the first Passover, God told them to celebrate it for generations.**

As we have seen, things can turn around very quickly in the wrong direction. But throughout centuries people have been able to bounce back. A lot of it depends on your determination and attitude:

Ben Helfgott was nine years old and living in Poland when the Nazis stormed into his hometown and changed his life forever. His father, mother and little sister were shot by the Nazis. From the age of nine, he went from ghetto to ghetto, concentration camp to concentration camp, transported in cattle cars in which people collapsed and died all around him. For a time, he was a slave laborer. He never viewed it that way. He said, “They let me live.” In the camps, he starved. At the end of the war, England agreed to take 1,000 teenagers who had been displaced by the conflict. They could not find 1,000, but Ben Helfgott was glad to go to England. It became his adopted home. He was 15, very weak, very thin, but very determined.

Eleven years after being liberated he took part in the Olympic Games – as a weightlifter, captain of the team representing his new home, Britain. He married, was successful in business and retired early to help other Holocaust survivors. His son said this about Ben:

“He is a man who would rather talk about the good things that people did,” “Not about the suffering he endured.

Last line of article: Did his suffering leave him with psychological problems? “Not at all,” Helfgott says. “I just had to get on with living.”

[Interview: How Ben Helfgott went from a concentration camp to Olympic weightlifting. Michael Freedland. The Guardian. May 8, 2018]

You can bounce back from whatever you are facing. As you turn to God, He will help you. It helps to remember the faithfulness of God through the centuries!

The Passover was one of the most important feasts to the Hebrews – Jews continue to celebrate Passover to this day. It is the longest continually celebrated feast in the history of the world.

Pharaoh had refused to let the Hebrews go. Nine plagues had come, Pharaoh had begged for relief, but he would not let God’s people go.

The Judgment of God came upon the Egyptian people because they refused to obey the Lord.

The death angel visited every house. The first-born died in every house not covered with the blood. This is a reminder that everyone will be judged by the Lord.

There was death in every house in Egypt, except for in the Hebrew camp. There was no death there because the houses were protected by the blood. Death had already come to the houses in Egypt. An innocent, unblemished lamb died to provide a covering for the Hebrew families.

The Passover had been celebrated for centuries. Jesus was excited to give this ancient feast a brand new, deeper meaning. **Jesus came to fulfill what the feast had been pointing to all along.**

## **2. The Original Lord's Supper**

Luke 22:19-21 *And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 20 And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.*

**Jesus gave new meaning to the ancient ceremony. Just as God told the Hebrews to make Passover a celebration to coming generations before the Passover happened – so Jesus told the disciples to remember what He would do on the cross before He went to the cross. Jesus gave the elements new meaning.**

### **A. *"This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."***

The bread was given a new meaning. It was not a reminder that God was about to act. It was now a reminder of the body of Jesus. It is a constant reminder for us that God has acted in history at a particular time through a particular person.

That Jesus had a body at all is a miracle. Jesus left heaven and came to earth that He created and He became one of us. Jesus was fully God and fully man. Jesus accepted limits. He experienced hunger, thirst, weariness. Jesus felt pain, suffering, grief, loss, rejection. He was tempted in every way that we are tempted, and yet He never sinned. Jesus understands whatever you are going through.

Jesus knowingly and willingly went to the cross to suffer in your place. Jesus took your sin upon Himself and He died in your place. Jesus died to pay for your sins and mine. "This is My body which is broken for you."

### **B. *"This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."***

From the beginning blood was shed to provide forgiveness of sin. This is God's idea. I believe God did this so we would understand the seriousness of our sin. God put Adam & Eve in a perfect environment, and provided for their every need. He gave them one rule. They rebelled against God, broke the rule, and everything changed. Our world is broken because of the sin of man. In Genesis 3 God provided animal skins to cover Adam & Eve. An animal had to die because of their sin.

Throughout Scripture animals died to provide forgiveness for man's sin. As the centuries passed it became clear that a special Man – the Messiah – Jesus was coming to be the final Sacrifice.

I Timothy 2:5-6 *For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.*

<b>Genesis 22</b>	– God will provide.	God provided a substitute for Isaac.
<b>Exodus 12</b>	Passover	Spotless lamb, death to those not prepared Blood provides a covering
<b>Leviticus 16</b> Hebrews 10:10-18	The Scapegoat	Atonement – blood sprinkled on mercy seat Scapegoat – visible, lead away bearing sins
<b>Isaiah 53</b> Ps 22, Mt. 26:63, Mt. 27:12-14	Suffering Messiah	The Lamb is a person
<b>John 1:29</b>	John => Jesus	Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin ....
<b>Acts 8:26-37</b>	Phillip & Eunuch	Eunuch was reading Is. 53. Acts 8:35 beginning from this Scripture, he preached Jesus
<b>I Peter 1:17-21</b>	Foreknown from foundation	a lamb unblemished ... the blood of Christ
<b>Revelation 5</b>	The Lamb is Worthy	Worthy is the Lamb to receive power and glory....
Revelation 21 The Lamb in eternity see vv. 9, 14, 22-23; 22:1		

### **3. There is no mention of eating the lamb in the Last Passover.**

They probably did eat lamb because the disciples who prepared the meal did not know what Jesus was about to do. But Jesus did not mention the lamb because Jesus was the Lamb of God.

All the lambs pointed to Jesus the final lamb. The One True Lamb of God.

New Covenant – the Scriptures had been pointing to this moment for centuries.

Jesus knew what it all meant before it happened.

Jesus willingly went to the cross, stayed on the cross, and died on the cross for you and me.

The new covenant concerns an inner transformation that cleanses us from all sin: *For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more (Jeremiah 31:34)*. This transformation puts God's Word and will in us: *I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts (Jeremiah 31:33)*. This covenant is all about a new, close relationship with God: *I will be their God, and they shall be My people (Jeremiah 31:33)*.

God has given us the Lord's Supper as a reminder that He gave His life as the Great Passover Lamb of God to pay for our sins, so that the wrath of God would pass over us if we put our faith and trust in Jesus.

The Lord's Supper is a reminder that there is a different end for those that put their faith in Christ in contrast to those that reject the Word of God and the Work of Jesus Christ for them on the cross. No one is saved because they deserve it. All who are saved are saved by faith in Jesus.

### 3. This is the Gospel

It is what separates Christianity from every other world religion.

God became a man – Jesus – He was tempted in every way, but never sinned.

Jesus died in your place. Jesus was the only one who could die in your place for forgiveness of your sins – and He did. He died because He loves you. John 3:16

You don't have to earn His love, but you do have to receive it. You can't earn salvation, but you do have to receive it. You receive the life of Christ through faith and surrender.

*Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

**Conclusion:** Lord's Supper. You can do this now with me, or you can do this later. The emphasis is not on the elements, but on understanding the gospel and remembering the sacrifice of Jesus.

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**Bread** *"This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me*

**Juice** *"This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.*

#### **Closing: Do This in Remembrance of Me**

The tense of these words mean that we are to continually remember and we are to continually love others the way Jesus loves us.

Jesus calls for us to love others sacrificially.

We are to sacrifice for others.

We are to sacrifice for those we love. (We are to love our neighbor)

We are to sacrifice for those that don't deserve it.

The way Jesus sacrificed for us when we did not deserve it.

We can only do this if God empowers and enables us to love. We must know Him to love like Him.