

The Greatest Meal Ever Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

The Preparation Mark 14:12-16

Mark 14:16 – *“The disciples went out and came to the city, and found it just as He had told them; and they prepared the Passover.”*

- Why is this night different from all other nights? (History of Passover) - Mark 14:12
 - God’s Promise to Ancient Israel - Exodus 6:6-7
 - Deliverance from Captivity - Exodus 12
 - A Memorial of Remembrance - Number 9:1-5, 11-12
- Jesus sovereignly prepares for this meal - Mark 14:13-16
 - Two Disciples sent out to prepare - Mark 14:13 (John and Peter according to Luke 22:8)
 - Jesus invites His disciples to what was typically an exclusive family event - Mark 14:14-15
 - John and Peter find the details exactly as Jesus has said they would be - Mark 14:16

The Passover Mark 14:22-24

Mark 14:24 – *“And He said to them, “This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”*

- The Actual Menu:
 - Would include a lamb (pesach), bitter herbs (maror) and unleavened bread (matzah) - Exodus 12:8
 - Bread: *“Take it; this is My body.”* - Mark 14:22
 - Cup: *“And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, and they all drank from it.”* Mark 14:23
- Jesus Becomes the Sacrificial Lamb
 - Blood: *“This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”* - Mark 14:24
 - Atonement for our Sin: *“...For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.”* - 1 Corinthians 5:7

The Promise Mark 14:25-26

Mark 14:25 – *“Truly I say to you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”*

- Jesus will return again - Mark 14:25
 - *“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.”* - 1 Corinthians 11:26
- There is an even better meal to come with brothers and sisters from every tongue, tribe and nation
 - *“Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”* - Revelation 19:9

Digging Deeper: 5 Views on What is Happening When We Take Communion Today

1. **Memorialism (Calvary's view):** Many Christians refer to the Eucharist as the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion and deny any form of physical or spiritual presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Rather, the Lord's Supper is a remembrance of Christ's suffering and a reminder of his power to overcome sin and death. This view derives from the teachings of the Swiss reformer Ulrich Zwingli.
2. **Receptionism:** The Reformed and Presbyterian view derives from the teachings of John Calvin: Christ is not present literally in the elements, but he is spiritually present. Those who receive the elements with faith can receive the actual body and blood of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit which works through the sacrament, a view sometimes known as Receptionism.
3. **Consubstantiation:** In Lutheranism, there is a Sacramental Union of the bread and wine with the body and blood of Christ. In other words, Christ's body and blood are present "in, with and under " the forms of bread and wine. This is sometimes known as Consubstantiation (although Luther himself did not use this term).
4. **Mystery:** The Orthodox church accepts the Eucharist as a Sacrament (though it uses the term 'Mystery' instead of 'Sacrament') and also accepts the doctrines of the Real Presence and the sacrificial nature of the Eucharist. However, it does not make any attempt to explain how the change occurs, preferring to regard it as a divine mystery.
5. **Transubstantiation (Roman Catholic view):** The Eucharist (Greek: 'thanksgiving') is a Sacrament, and like all Sacraments, it conveys grace to all who receive it worthily. The Eucharist also makes present Christ's sacrifice on the Cross in an unbloody manner, for that reason it is sometimes known as the Holy sacrifice of the Mass. Through it, forgiveness of sin may be obtained. On consecration, the bread and the wine change completely into the actual body and blood of Christ. This change is known as Transubstantiation and Christ's presence in the elements is called the Real Presence.

LifeGroup Discussion:

1. What is the strength of Calvary's view (Memorialism) in what is taking place in communion? What could be a weakness with our view on communion?
2. Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and then discuss why the Transubstantiation view seems to be in contradiction.
3. How can you make the communion table a more meaningful part of your regular worship?

To get involved in a LifeGroup or learn more about these ongoing small group communities, check "LifeGroups" on The Card (located in the seat rack in the seat in front of you) or visit calvarylife.org/lifegroups

In Response:

COMMUNION: Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

GIVING: The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus' name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or calvarylife.org/give

PRAYER POINTS: These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.