

“The Best Meal Ever”

Lesson Focus: [Matthew 26:17-30](#)

Question(s) of Focus: Why is communion so important and why should we observe it?

The Point: The institution of Holy Communion symbolizes Christ’s great sacrifice for the world. We partake in The Lord’s Supper as a reminder of how He saved us and as a reminder of our obligation to serve Him in the world.

INTRODUCTION

What’s the best meal you have ever had? Why?

BACKGROUND

Our textual focus today is centered around the Passover Celebration. The Jewish Passover celebration was the highest, most holy, and most celebrated festival in the ancient Jewish tradition.

Passover is a major (typically 7 day long) celebration that commemorates the Exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. According to Exodus, Yahweh (God) commanded Moses to instruct the Israelites to smear lamb’s blood over their door so that the Angel of Death would pass over them. This festival celebrates the fact that death passed over Israelites in Egypt.

God commanded the Jewish people to observe the Passover Feast in memory of their dramatic deliverance from bondage in Egypt ([Exodus 12](#)).

Preparations (vs. 17-19)

[Matthew 26:17](#)

The feast of unleavened bread lasted a full week immediately following the night of the Passover meal ([Deuteronomy 16:1–8](#)).

The Passover was a time to gather, fellowship, reflect, testify, praise, and to recommit. And for the disciples, this level of holy engagement necessitated preparations.

The disciples had to make preparations in four critical areas for this celebration:

- **Location**
- **Sacrifices**
- **Table**
- **Meal**

We ought to be _____ and _____
every time we gather, every time we worship, and especially every time we approach
The Lord's Supper.

What preparations do you make in anticipation to take communion?

Matthew reports that Jesus gave clear instructions to the disciples on how they were supposed to prepare for The Passover meal:

[Matthew 26:18-19](#)

Here, "city" refers to Jerusalem—the city of Peace—the holy headquarters of the Jewish faith.

[Matthew 21](#) seems to indicate that Jesus and the disciples were leaving Bethany.

Jesus' instructions were clear:

- Go to the city (Jerusalem)
- Find a certain man
- Tell the man my master said, His time is near, and He and His disciples will keep Passover at your house.

So, how do we prepare for The Lord's Supper? What instructions has God given to us?

We are given instructions about how to approach The Lord's Table:

i. _____ (I Corinthians 11:17-22)

ii. _____ (I Corinthians 11:27-32)

iii. _____ (I Corinthians 11:33-34)

iv. _____ (Matthew 5:23-24)

Participants (vs. 20)

Matthew 26:19

Matthew 26:20 When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve

Avery Dulles reminds us that The Eucharist is *what binds the community of believers together.*

Communion is not only about the _____ and _____

Communion is also about the _____

The _____ table is an _____ table

Therefore, we are called to invite, make room, and involve all people at God's Table.

Penitence (vs. 21-23)

Matthew 26:21-23

Here, we learn that Jesus alluded to what we now know to be the betrayal of Judas. According to the gospels, Judas would ultimately betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. And when Jesus alluded to these acts, all the disciples became extremely distressed and exceeding sorrowful, and each asked, It's not me, is it Lord? Judas, apparently made his arrangements so seamlessly that no one expected him.

“the one who has dipped his hand into the bowl...”

Why would Jesus wait to expose these acts at the table during the Passover meal?

We may never be _____ from God's table;

We all will be _____ at God's table.

In what ways has God convicted you during communion?

Proposition (vs. 24-25)

Matthew 26:24

Here, we are reminded that Christ's purpose was to die on the cross and even Judas' betrayal played an intricate part in fulfilling that purpose.

Matthew 26:24b-25

At God's table, _____ before _____

How have you ignored God's warnings in your life? What were the consequences?

Pardoning (vs. 26-28)

Matthew 26:26-28

Jesus first took a loaf of bread. The bread—for the Jewish community—reminded the people how Yahweh (God) not only spared their lives and delivered them from slavery, but also how God provided bread to them in the wilderness.

However, according to [verse 26](#), Jesus blessed and broke the bread and told the disciples to eat the bread, for it symbolized His body.

Bread= _____

[Matthew 26:27](#)

Here, Jesus used another important Judaic symbol to represent what would soon happen to him. The Jewish people held the symbol of blood in high regard. The symbol of blood would have deeply resonated with ancient Jewish people as they recalled the smeared lamb's blood on the doorposts of ancestors who were passed over in Egypt.

[Matthew 26:28](#)

Wine= _____

[Matthew 26:28b](#) for this is my blood of the covenant, **in which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.**

Where's the lamb?

Mark (14:22-25) and Luke (22:18-20) both record Jesus instructing his disciples to observe this practice—this ordinance—in remembrance of Him.

Promise (vs. 29)

Matthew 27:29

Praise (vs. 30)

Matthew 26:30 they sang a hymn, and went out to the Mount of Olives.

Our reminder of God's _____ and _____

should always instigate _____

Questions For Further Reflection:

1. How should I better prepare to partake in communion?
2. Who has been excluded? Who do I need to invite to God's table?
3. How can I better show my gratitude to God for the broken body and shed blood of Jesus?



“The Best Meal Ever”
Matthew 26:17-30

Pastor T. Chandler-Harrison



What's the best meal you
have ever had? Why?

Preparations (vs.17-19)

Matthew 26:17, On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

Preparations (vs.17-19)

The feast of unleavened bread
lasted a full week immediately
following the night of the
Passover meal (Deuteronomy
16:1-8).

Preparations (vs.17-19)

The disciples had to make preparations in four critical areas for this celebration:

- **Location**
- **Sacrifices**
- **Table**
- **Meal**

Preparations (vs.17-19)

We ought to be prayerful and preparatory every time we gather, every time we worship, and especially every time we approach The Lord's Supper.

What preparations do
you make in anticipation
to take communion?

Preparations (vs.17-19)

Matthew 26:18-19, He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’”¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

Preparations (vs.17-19)

Jesus' instructions were clear:

- Go to the city (Jerusalem)
- Find a certain man
- Tell the man my master said, His time is near, and He and His disciples will keep Passover at your house.

So, how do we prepare
for The Lord's Supper?
What instructions has
God given to us?

Preparations (vs.17-19)

- i. Unify/Without Divisions (I Corinthians 11:17-22)
- ii. Self-Examine (I Corinthians 11:27-32)
- iii. Be Courteous (I Corinthians 11:33-34)
- iv. Go Reconcile (Matthew 5:23-24)

Participants (vs.20)

Matthew 26:20 When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve.

Participants (vs.20)

Communion is not only about the institution and the instruments;

Communion is also about the invitation of individuals.

Participants (vs.20)

The greatest table is an
open table.

Penitence (vs.21-23)

²¹ and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” ²² And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” ²³ He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.”

Why would Jesus wait to
expose these acts at the
table during the Passover
meal?

Penitence (vs.21-23)

We may never be
excluded from God's
table;

We all will be examined at
God's table.

In what ways has God
convicted you during
communion?

Proposition (vs.24-25)

Matthew 26:24 The Son
of Man goes as it is
written of him,

Proposition (vs.24-25)

At God's table, God
warns before we are
whipped.

How have you ignored
God's warnings in your
life? What were the
consequences?

Pardoning (vs.26-28)

Matthew 26:24 The Son
of Man goes as it is
written of him,

Pardoning (vs.26-28)

Matthew 26:26-28, While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.”²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Pardoning (vs.26-28)

Bread=The Broken Body of
Jesus

Pardoning (vs.26-28)

Wine=The Shed Blood of
Jesus

Promise (vs.29)

verse 29, I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”

Praise (vs.30)

Verse 30, they sung a hymn,
and went out to the Mount
of Olives. ”

Praise (vs.30)

Our reminder of God's
pardon and promise should
always instigate perpetual
praise.

Questions For Further Reflection:

1. How should I better prepare to partake in communion?
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