



The Gospel According to Luke
Wk. 105 “New & Improved /
The Last Passover and the First Communion”
By Pastor Jody May

Institution of the Lord’s Supper

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at 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. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had 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 likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹ But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. ²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!” ²³ And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

Intro.

Today we are finishing a two-week endeavor to break down the “Eucharist” or what we call “The Lord’s Supper” or “Communion”.

In short, the Last Passover was completed and transformed into what we celebrate today as Communion by the work of Jesus Christ.

Jesus shut down the Act of the OT Passover for He was the **fulfillment** of what it was to **point to**: The need for God to **Passover/Preserve** us from the effects of sin, eternal death. **Why** would that be **important** to you? We are born **depraved** (Ps. 51:5 & 58:3), **so unless a SUBSTITUTE is provided for us** (2 Cor. 5:14), someone to take our place, to take our sin, to replace our works of filthy rags (Is. 64:6) with works of pure righteousness, there is no hope, for according to the God’s Word we will die an eternal death (Rom. 6:23).

Communion/Lord’s Supper was started in 33 AD as a “**Rite**” the church was to perform to **celebrate, remember, unite in**, to be **strengthened by**, to **testify to**, that



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God has preserved His people through a “**New Work**”. Judaism was replaced with Christianity. A religion that says:

“It’s not about the amount of effort you put into saving yourself but it’s about the perfect work God put into saving you!” - Christianity

This week we are witnessing all the **Sovereign Work that God** has put in over the course of human history to bring us to the substitutionary work on the cross (1500k years in the making). This Communion would become one of the two “**Rites**” of the only true religion in the world, Christianity. Due to the shortness of time, I am limiting this to 3 points along with the reminder we participate in communion every week here at HCC, so we learn and experience this rite a little more every week.

1. Communion as an Ordinance - comes with an Expiration Date.

¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”

Jesus will not eat nor drink of this particular meal again **UNTIL**, a condition must be met. The condition is that the **Kingdom of God, must come in full**. V. 16 He will not celebrate the Preserving work of redemption with the church until all the church is brought in, those that had been called to Kingdom, until they are all in, He will not celebrate with us. He will not drink the wine of the New Covenant; He will not celebrate those that His blood brought in until the Kingdom has come in fully. It leaves us with the question of, well when is that?

(**Why look to Cor.?** to remember Luke is written 30 years after as compared to 1 Cor. written 10 before that, still teaching about communion)

1 Corinthians 11:26 ESV

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.



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We see that we participate in communion, that act of proclaiming/praising the death of Christ **UNTIL** He comes.... Now, I cannot answer when that is, no one can (Mat. 26:36 & 2 Peter 3:10), and if they say they can you need to run away! What I can point to is what is the **event** that brings in the Kingdom and initiates His return.

Revelation 19:6-7 ESV

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

⁶Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

“Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.

⁷ Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the **marriage of the Lamb has come**,
and his Bride has made herself ready;

This Marriage Supper of the Lamb shows that Communion, this rite, will morph one more time and become something else. In Revelation 18 we find the church is called out of the world to leave it. They have been suffering through a Tribulation with the world but now God is calling out the true church, the ones that have survived and have been purified.

Then in chapter 19 we see Jesus returns; now whether this is pre-millennial or post-millennial that is still to be seen. What we do see is God’s kingdom and it has been brought in fully, the church has withstood temptation and oppression and called home. **The church has been made beautiful through her sufferings as Christ was made even more perfect through His.** It is now time to receive His people, His bride. **Communion has reached its’ shelf life; this ordinance will come to an end, as a new celebratory meal is established, a consummation feast!**



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Here’s what that means for us. **1st it is important for the church to carry on her responsibilities in this Ordinance** for it is one of the ways that church will **PERSEVERE**. Communion becomes for the church that suffers rightly, a life-sustaining representation of why they go through what they go through – **only where the Gospel is not watered down**. We participate in it every week here, and what I am discovering is that the more we do it, the better it becomes. People need to be reminded of God’s strength in His commitment to us along with the reminder of we are all in this together.

2nd is to realize the fact we are on borrowed time. The offer to come to Christ, to join the body, to receive grace, is a limited time offer. No man knows when the end is coming and more importantly no one knows when their end is coming. There is **no chance of redemption on the other end of life**. We don’t reach the judgment seat of God and He’s like *let me explain it all now*. You get one life, one brief period of time, to know Him. Knowing Him not just as a man, but as your God, your Savior, your Lord, your King, your Messiah to be obeyed without reservation. Do yourself a favor today, start fighting with that decision today, will you follow Him or will you follow the world. One leads to eternal life and one leads to an eternal death.

2. Communion Bread – The Distribution of Substitutionary Atonement.

¹⁹ And he took **bread**, and when he had 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.

That phrase “**given for you**” - *δίδωμι (didōmi)*. *vb.* to give, to offer. **A general word for giving; in a sacrificial context, it can refer to the presentation of an offering.**¹

This is the **most important part** of the whole process. **It is the most important concept in the whole Bible (MacArthur)!** The bread represents Jesus’ life, all of

¹ Difransico, L. (2014). [Sacrifice](#). D. Mangum, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, & R. Hurst (Eds.), *Lexham Theological Wordbook*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.



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the acts done, He breaks it and distributes it, to signify His life given freely to us, by His will, to unite us as it did for His disciples. **The life He gives, is in place for the life we live.** He gives it to us as a sacrifice, to replace the life we would give to God.

Let’s talk about how that act fits into the Last Passover. On Passover every year, it occurred on the 10th of Nissan, a Monday. You went to purchase your lamb from the temple animal handlers, you bought the best you could afford, trying to get something without a lot of blemishes. Then you brought it back on Thursday/Friday to be slaughtered for your sacrificial meal. **This Last Passover, God on Monday, has Jesus paraded into Jerusalem, at the end of the triumphant entry, rolls into the temple, then the Father presents the last Passover Lamb for all His people.**

Jesus as the Lamb has no blemish, Jesus as the Lamb born sinless has been perfected through a life of temptation, suffering, and abuse by a world that knew Him not. What the world and the devil did to tarnish Him made Him purer and whiter. He is something that we could never afford so God picks up the expense, **costing Him His only begotten and costing Jesus His life.**

Isaiah 53:5-7 ESV

- ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.
- ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.
- ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a **lamb** that is led to the **slaughter**,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.



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The lamb of God (John 1:29 & 35-36) was offered on Passover for His people and **became our substitute**. He took our sin and gave us His righteousness, He took our guilt and gave us a blamelessness, He took our death penalty and sentenced us to life eternal, He took worldliness and gave us holiness; He substituted Himself for us because without it again there was no hope. Ingesting the bread doesn't give you this condition, but **by eating the bread you have chosen to believe this condition has been passed onto you already, ALL by His grace** (Eph. 2:8-9).

Now why would anyone not want this great exchange!? People try to use the excuse all the time, *“If you only knew what I was really like...”* as a way of saying Jesus wouldn't want them. **If we had to go by our likability and our attractiveness no one would be saved.** I think what a person really means when they say that or believe that is, *“If you only knew that I am not ready yet to give up who I am.”* To which I would say, OK, but it is only because you have not truly seen Him yet for who He is. Spiritual blindness is the only reason why you deny the supremacy and attractiveness of Christ, which brings us to our last point.

3. Communion Wine – The Distribution of the New Covenant.

²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, *“This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.*

A covenant is a promise whereby one party declares that it will not break the promise no matter what the other party determines to do. That's why we consider marriage based on a covenant, *“till death do we part.”* It is supposed to model the covenant that God has with us. Obviously, we as people don't model that great even in the church.

This covenant is a **New One** replacing an old one. The old one had been started first by identifying who were to be Israelites, that was identified by whoever participated in Passover (Exodus 12). Then the Covenant was established with those people at Mt. Sinai by the giving of the law and obligations. God had already chosen them, had already saved them, and to keep their side of the covenant they had to remain faithful to God. Well, if you have been in our



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reading plan with us you know that was a big **FAT FAIL!** Later on, through the prophets, God though gives hope. **Hope** that would be **based on a new covenant:**

Jeremiah 31:31 & 33 ESV

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my **law within them**, (not on the outside written on stone tablets) and I will write it **on their hearts**. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

That last line “*I will be their God, and they shall be my people*” is now **given not as a condition** but as a **promise** of this New Covenant. No matter what you and I do He will always remain your God, and btw we are going do a lot better now, because He is going to the change the root of our problem, our heart!

Ezekiel 36:26-27 ESV

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

This new spirit is birthed in us by His spirit (Eph. 1:13). Stone to flesh, that is terminology to say you went from a dead heart to a living one. This new living heart helps us to live the law now, the law that is summed up perfectly in loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves (Mat. 22:37-40). **Now what is the connection between this New Covenant and the wine poured out as Jesus’ blood?**

Well, in the ancient day the ceremony to enact a new Covenant was sometimes conducted by a feast but it always required the slaying of an animal. The blood spilled by the one to initiate the covenant was to say, “let this be as good as my blood if I do not fulfill my covenant obligations to you.” **It means I forfeit my life**, if I do not uphold my side. Blood has always been involved in giving covenants in



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the Bible, it has always been by animals God has provided to His people, and again he foots the bill.

Jesus pours out His blood on the cross, instead of our blood being poured out for covenant breaking. It is given as the sign/seal of the New Covenant, whereby we are promised that we get a new heart, we are able to live out the law, we are able to understand our wrongs and correct them, and what’s more we get our God, and He gets us. And nothing can separate us because He made the promise based on the blood of Jesus (Rom. 8:38-39). The blood is given as the forgiveness of sins, that while we were sinners, He died for us (Rom. 5:8), so that we may gain the new heart so we may live for Him.

When you begin to understand the blood was really for you, that is because you have been brought into the New Covenant, because you have received and can respond rightly to the Gospel; spiritual blindness, spiritual lifelessness cured!

In closing I want to say a word about those who refuse the free offer of Christ, who close their ears to the gospel:

²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!” ²³ And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

Judas isn’t the only betrayer folks. It is anyone that rejects the good news of the gospel, rejects the good news of substitutionary atonement, rejects the good news of the New Covenant, rejects the perfect unblemished lamb of God, rejects the reality of their sin. “Woe” to them, you remember that phrase? That was what Jesus said to those Pharisees that dammed themselves by their lack of faith. Woe to those who reject the Gospel; it leads to an eternal separation from God.

Baptism was the display for those of you that are rejecting God this morning. It says to you, if God can save people who were born dead then He can save you. It testifies that it really happens. Communion is the display to you that all of us believe in Gospel and we proclaim it until Jesus’ return. Won’t you at least think



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about investigating more if this today, talk to God about it, share with someone in this church what you’re struggling with. There is always more room at God’s table but there is only limited time. Don’t wait too long friend, God has spoken to you today, by His Word and the demonstration of the church’s ordinances. May He bless you kindly as He has blessed us.

PRAYER

COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

Go in the name of the Father, that provided the plan and the lamb making a way for Him to be our God and for us to be His people.

Go in the name of the Son, that was poured out for our iniquities and waits to celebrate with us when the Kingdom comes in full.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that awakens our heart to its’ need for Him, and enables us to share this good news with our neighbor.