



## The Gospel According to Luke

### Wk. 104 “The Secret Planning of the Lord’s Supper”

By Pastor Jody May

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#### The Passover with the Disciples

<sup>7</sup> Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup> So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it.” <sup>9</sup> They said to him, “Where will you have us prepare it?” <sup>10</sup> He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters <sup>11</sup> and tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ <sup>12</sup> And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there.” <sup>13</sup> And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

#### Institution of the Lord’s Supper

<sup>14</sup> And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup> For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” <sup>17</sup> And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, “Take this, and divide it among yourselves. <sup>18</sup> For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” <sup>19</sup> 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.” <sup>20</sup> And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. <sup>21</sup> But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. <sup>22</sup> For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!” <sup>23</sup> And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

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#### Intro.

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

Most scholars believe that the early Christian practice of the Eucharist (εὐχαριστία, *eucharistia*) or the Lord’s Supper (κυριακὸν δεῖπνον, *kyriakon*)



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*deipnon*; 1 Cor 11:23–25) was established on the foundation of the Jewish Passover meal described as the “Last Supper” in the Synoptic Gospels (Mark 14:22–25; Matt 26:26–29; Luke 22:14–20). The Jewish Passover was celebrated as a memorial meal (זִכָּרוֹן, *zikkaron*) commemorating a central event that established a common identity.<sup>1</sup>

Now before you yawn, I also want to point out that **understanding this subject better you get the central theme of all the Bible**. The OT act of the Passover (Exodus 12) has always pointed to the need of a substitutionary act of atonement, that is the need for you and I to have something that takes our sin, removes it, and is punished for it OR there is no eternal life; **we need a scapegoat**. In fact, without atonement, (Doctrine of Justification) you pay for your own sin which is eternal condemnation, removal from God and His presence thrown into Hell, damnation for all eternity!

The OT practice of Passover was replaced by the Eucharist in (April 2) 33 AD, by what Jesus does for us on the Cross. The Last Supper becomes the celebration of a completed dispensation of the OT. It is a lasting commemoration until we participate with Jesus in the future Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:6-9). Lastly, it is the Holy Communion between Saints and God of honoring the Triune work of God in Redemptive History.

In our passage for the next two weeks, we are going to look at all the workings, and uniqueness of that act, which is **one of the only two Ordinances**, rites were ordained, or **instituted, by Christ himself** <sup>2</sup>, shared by all Protestant churches. **PLUS, next week we will participate in Communion with those following the command of Christ** in the FIRST church Ordinance of Baptism (**Mat. 28:19**). Baptism being the public declaration of being **saved by Faith in Jesus Christ**.

As a new believer we have been crucified with Christ, buried with Him and raised together with Him to walk in newness of life, being brought into the

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<sup>1</sup> P. Shirokov (2016). [Meal Customs](#). In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, ... W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

<sup>2</sup> Gregg Allison, “Ordinances of the Church” *The Gospel Coalition*, <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-ordinances-of-the-church/> Web, Jan. 15, 2021.



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New Covenant. Upon the completion of Baptism that day those new believers for the first time will participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> church ordinance of Communion. Baptism is a person's public declaration of following Jesus and Communion is in church corporate's public declaration of what He did for them!

This week we are going to look at Jesus' planning (**A TEAM**), I would use scheming but that sounds like Jesus is trying to sin, on how He was going to make this first one happen. Then we are going to look at the OT practice of Passover, so we get what He was trying to replace. Then lastly, we are going to look at our Lord's heart and desire in wanting to do this. All of this shows that the **Sovereignty of God is not God choosing how to respond what people do - REACTING, but He is controlling what people do so we can get a chance to respond to Him - PROACTIVE.**

#### 1. The Mystery of the Plan.

<sup>7</sup>Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.

Alright, just like last week there is a little more than meets the eye to this story. Am I talking a conspiracy case? Well, let's hold that thought till we get to the end of today's passage and you make your mind up for yourself.

So, it says in the text that the feast of Unleavened Bread and Passover came up. We were just in the temple with Jesus on Weds., then Judas betrays him, and it is now Thursday; the time has arrived to celebrate the combined holiday. This is one of the many reasons that Jesus has led His disciples to Jerusalem, to participate in Passover, BUT you will see later it was also important that Jesus' work on the Cross **had to happen** during Passover.

<sup>8</sup>So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." <sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?"



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Now, we have not seen in Luke any talk about Passover, although we know it is time for it. It is at this point that it **seems** that **Jesus remembers**, and then looks over at the leaders of the Disciples, and is like, **“Go put your name in for a table.”**

**Illustration:** What you may not realize, is this request is like when the pastor runs long on Mother’s Day and we, being good Southern Baptists, take mom out for lunch and we show up at the *Texas Roadhouse*. You get to the parking lot and not only is it full, but people are parking on the road and walking a half-mile back. And when you finally put your name in, there’s a sinking feeling in your stomach because there are no more peanuts nor pagers. Then you get the bad news: you’re **gonna miss Nascar & Golf** that day because you’re not sitting until 7pm. And the kicker, your mom is good with that, because it’s her day! Which of course puts the pastor in your bad graces for the rest of the year!

Oh, wait there’s more to this mysterious plan. **It’s not just find a place but get everything you need – “PREPARE”**. Let me break this down, because it will help you feel the weight a bit of the enormity of the command, *“go and prepare for Passover for all 13 of us!?”*

Why just Peter and John (leaders of the first church (Acts 3:1-2; 8:14) and not James? Wasn’t he part of the inner circle? Well, tradition said that **only two men** could bring a lamb to be sacrificed – or a kid – only two men could bring the animal to be sacrificed because if you’ve got to do sacrifices for tens of thousands of people, hundreds of thousands of people and you’ve got a few hours to do them, you don’t want all those people showing up to be a part of the big event of sacrificing the animal. And so tradition required no more than two could come, which cut the crowd down significantly.

They would bring the animal alive and the priests would kill the animal, pour the blood of the animal on the altar, keep some of the meat of the animal for themselves and to be offered to God as a sacrifice, and the rest of it would be taken by the offerer back to be prepared and cooked and used as the Passover lamb to be eaten by the rest.

The Passover feast required unleavened bread. ... They were staying at night out in the Mount of Olives. They didn’t have some kind of stock or staple food somewhere. They had to go find unleavened bread. Then they required wine for this Passover. Four different cups of wine were taken – symbolic – and I’ll mention that in a moment. They needed bitter herbs as well. And they needed a dip, called charoseth. It was made out of



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pomegranate, and apple, and dates, and it was all crushed and blended together with nuts. That was something in which they dipped the unleavened bread with their hands.

There were a number of components. Just to go back to the four cups of wine. They seemed to be connected as symbols to God’s promise to His ancient people in Exodus 6:6 and 7. God made these promises, “I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will deliver you from their bondage. I will also redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. And I will be your God.” Those four great promises – redemptive, salvific promises – symbolized in the four cups of wine.

The bitter herbs symbolized the bitterness of their time in Egypt. The charoseth – apples, dates, pomegranates, nuts, all ground up in a brown paste – all of this had to be prepared. And they had to do all of that and showed up at the right schedule, 3 o’clock, for that brief period of a couple of hours and have a priest slaughter their lambs, sprinkle the blood, take some of the meat, bring it back home, roast it, be ready for the evening meal.

By the way, they also had a bowl of salt water at the tablet to remind them of the tears they shed while they were slaves in Egypt, and of the salt waters of the Red Sea through which God wondrously redeemed them.<sup>3</sup>

**<sup>10</sup> He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters <sup>11</sup>and tell the master of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’”**

Jesus is like, *take a ‘Chill Pill’*, I’m going to help you. When you go into town, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Now to you and me, that doesn’t seem to be a lot of help in a city that normally houses 100k but is flooded with Pilgrims which records record between 1-2 million people flowing through the streets. First, I would say remember this is Jesus, and He is acting in the eternal decreed Sovereignty that this event cannot be stopped. There is still more here. A man with a jar of water? In those days, men did not carry water in jars. 1<sup>st</sup> men carried smaller containers of water in leather skins for their own personal use in the day, 2<sup>nd</sup> it was the ladies that carried water in jars back to their homes. So, this guy is going stand out AND he’s going to find you.

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<sup>3</sup> MacArthur, Jon, Sermon, “God’s Preparation for the Final Passover” *Grace to You*, <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/42-268/gods-preparation-for-the-final-passover>, Web Jan. 14, 2021.



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When you see this guy, you tell him the Teacher/*Rabbi* (don't use my name) wants to see the room, and in Mat 26 there's an extra part:

#### **Matthew 26:18 ESV**

He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My **time** is at **hand**. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.' "

*Jesus, who have you been talking to other than us?* Notice he didn't give a name because the disciples did not know him (John Mark). Tell him the time is at hand? *What time?* **Jesus has been working out this day for who knows how long without the disciples knowing.** Jesus has had this day in mind for a while. **He would be in Jerusalem on Passover so that He could lay down His life in obedience to the Father for the payment of our sins.**

Also, His keeping this a secret has kept Judas in the dark! If Judas knew where it would be it would be the perfect time to turn him in. No one would be out in the streets on Passover, everyone is indoors, no one would witness the arrest of Jesus. The Lords has kept this a secret on purpose, and now Judas would have to stay with him in order to find out where He would be.

***<sup>12</sup> And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." <sup>13</sup> And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.***

Don't ask questions, just follow him, and he is going to show you a large upper room that is set up for us already. I called ahead, it has all been prepared, I did the hard work. So, they prepared for Passover.

Look by now, as we have been going through the book of Luke hopefully you have picked up on some things. **First, God always has a plan to establish His Kingdom. Second, He is sovereign so His plans can't be thwarted. Third, If God makes the plan then He will also ensure by His work it will happen.** That means for you and me we don't have to spend our time always asking what is the plan Lord? Our job is to follow Jesus and be obedient to His commands because He is doing things you can't see and there are good reasons for that!



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If we are honest **the reason, we want to know the plan, is so we can argue with Him about it**, to try and get things the way we want. The issue though is Jesus is always doing bigger things than what we think, and they are always to Glorify God which is usually a secondary concern for us if we are honest. His ways are not my ways (Is. 55:8-9) because His wants are usually not my wants UNTIL I start walking more in His shoes.... The Mystery of God's plans for your life is He does things without asking your approval, because His desire for your ultimate good is greater than your own...

Here's one of the biggest threats that I think Christians fall into all the time. If I don't hear from God on whatever I am praying about, then I will take His silence as a **"do whatever seems right to you"** (problem Jer. 17:9 the heart is deceitful above all). Although most of the time we interpret that as do as your heart pleases. **How about this, let's not rush decisions, let's talk it over with our CHRISTIAN family, let's listen to wise counsel from other Christians FIRST before we jump.** Let's all remember Jesus has got a plan, it is for your good, it is to glorify Him, and it is bringing us closer to His return! **Are you down with plan or are you spurning His commands?** In case your hesitant and still have some doubts let's look back in time and see how God worked all this out...

### **2. The Meticulousness and Magnitude of the Plan.**

<sup>7</sup>Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>14</sup>And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him.

Now let's do a little review on where these two events originated from and how on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 33 AD all things had lined up just the way God wanted it. (Give background of Israel's bondage w/Egypt first, then the 10 plagues culminating in Passover).

### **Exodus 12:3,5-7, 13 & 15**

<sup>3</sup>Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household. <sup>5</sup>Your lamb shall be without blemish, ...<sup>6</sup>and you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of



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this month, when the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill their lambs at twilight. <sup>7</sup> "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. <sup>13</sup> The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are. 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. <sup>15</sup> Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall remove leaven out of your houses, for if anyone eats what is leavened, from the first day until the seventh day, that person shall be cut off from Israel.

**How it started:** God designs the initial holiday to be an event to be passed down with no end to it. From 1476 BCE to 33 AD over 1500 years a practice that never stopped...

#### Deuteronomy 16:16 ESV

"Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God **at the place that he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread**, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths. They shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed."

**Who will be there:** God puts in place what feasts shall require the presence of multiple male witnesses at the temple of God.

#### Numbers 28:16-17 ESV

<sup>16</sup> "On the **fourteenth day** of the **first month** (Nissan) is the **LORD's Passover**, <sup>17</sup> and on the **fifteenth day** of this **month** is a **feast**. Seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten.

**When will it happen:** God goes as far as to set specific dates for both holidays so that no one can confuse the meaning of Jesus' death later on, as in what was the purpose of it.

#### John 1:29, 35-36 ESV

#### Behold, the Lamb of God

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the **Lamb of God**, who takes away the sin of the world!"





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#### Jesus Calls the First Disciples

<sup>35</sup>The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup>and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!”

**Who it will point to:** God provides a prophet (Malachi 3:1 & 4:5) that would point and declare what would be the action/role of the Messiah.

In this whole story there is something that is a little disturbing. By now we should see in God’s sovereignty He is bringing all things to unite in Christ (Eph. 1:10) BUT when we see the Passover take place Jesus is crucified on the first day of Unleavened bread (15<sup>th</sup>) right after Passover (14<sup>th</sup>). Now, why would God in such meticulous detail miss offering Jesus as the lamb by one day? Easy answer, well Jesus wanted to institute a new practice which would replace Passover and as well the Feast was considered part of Passover and it’s close enough... or is it?

Study Josephus. Study the Mishnah – the codification of Jewish law – and other historical sources. You find that the Jews in the north and the Jewish people in the south – the Galileans, say, as opposed to the Judeans – had different ways of calculating their days. ~~These chronological aspects have been a wonderful study, and anybody who makes an effort to studying this in the New Testament is greatly enriched by it.~~ But in the north, they calculated days from sunrise to sunrise. Sunrise to sunrise; that was a day, whereas in the south, they calculated the day from sunset to sunset. So, that’s a very clear distinction.

In Galilee, where Jesus and all the disciples except Judas had grown up, they calculated days from sunrise to sunrise. So the fourteenth of Nissan was sunrise on Thursday to sunrise on Friday. That puts the Passover Thursday night. **For the Jews in the south, it was sunset to sunset, so that puts it in late Friday for the southern Jews.** Same day calculated two different ways, and that worked well for the Jews.

By the way, the Pharisees tended to go with the northern approach. The Sadducees who were all around Jerusalem tended to go, of course, with the southern approach. What that did was solve a couple of problems. It split the number of animals to be killed into two different periods: Thursday night and Friday night. It also reduced what were called “regional clashes” because the southern people didn’t think too highly of the northern people. So it just was easier to have them separated.

So Jesus is celebrating a Galilean Passover Thursday evening, and that is Friday – the beginning of Friday, sunset, for the Jews who celebrate it late the next day. The



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timetable is perfect. The Lord can celebrate the Passover, fulfill all righteousness with His disciples on Thursday, and it’s a true Passover. The lambs were slain, and He can still die on the Passover the next night because there are two times when the Passover lamb is slain.<sup>4</sup>

Here’s then the full Meticulous Plan of which we see the Magnitude through time as it has been played out for over 1500 years to get to this point. Jesus is arrested around 6 am (John 19:14) then goes through His various trials which puts Him at the point of crucifixion around 9am (Mark 15:25). From 9-12 He hangs in agony for all to see on the cross. The Jews from the North, now done with Passover, can come and watch and the Jews from the South haven’t started their prep work; 9-12 just enough time to watch the lamb, THE SCAPEGOAT, take on the sins of the world. At 12pm we are told the sky goes dark (Mat.27:45) and at 3pm (John 19:30) He cries out to His Father “Why have you forsaken me” because Jesus also becomes the goat of *Yom Kippur* taking the sins of the people far away from them.

#### Isaiah 53:10-11 ESV

- <sup>10</sup> Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;  
he has put him to grief;  
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,  
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;  
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.
- <sup>11</sup> Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,  
make many to be accounted righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.

The Father must turn His face away from the sight as Jesus is bearing the full weight of our sins. He now truly knows what it feels to be like us but yet more fully for He endured the punishment we should have received. Then He cries “it is finished” as the Passover Lamb of God, and the blood has been spilled down the new altar of the cross effectively washing the sins away of all His people. This all happens while people have been standing in line with their lambs waiting for the

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid., John MacArthur.



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priests to prepare their animals. But at three the Spirit of God tears the veil nullifying any sacrifice from that point forward because the sins of man have been paid for! There is no more sacrifice, no more animals in the House of God, no more fear of dying without atonement, for death had passed by and God preserved His people once and for all FOR THOSE THAT BELIEVE IN HIM!

Family all I can say is with that type of planning to show the true power of sovereignty, with that type of planning to show you God’s Meticulousness to detail, with that type of planning to show you that nothing in the OT timeline is wasted, with that type of planning to show you the strength of God’s commitment to Glorify Himself, with all that work over 1500 years in the making, how can we still doubt the words of Jesus when He prays and states why all this happened:

**John 17:23 ESV** ...so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

So that we will all know that we have been loved as Jesus has been loved! How does it make you feel to know that all that planning was done with you in mind so that you would know that God has literally moved heaven and earth to get to you, to make you see He’s real, to make you see the planning was to save you His beloved child! The **Lamb was spared not** so that you could know it was for you that He was slain.

That makes us ask one more question today in closing because that means Jesus did something we could never do, He died for someone that did not love Him (yet), how could He do that?

### **3. The Joy of the Lord in the Plan.**

<sup>14</sup> And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

In the text there that phrase earnestly desired gives the connotation of Lust. Jesus had been caught up in thinking of this moment non-stop, it was the thing



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that brought Him joy, fulfillment, contentment, was instituting the Lord’s Supper with His disciples to be a continuing Ordinance until His return. This event was pushing Him through His last night on earth:

**Hebrews 12:2 ESV**

<sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the **joy** that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Friends and family today all I wanted to do, is to show you that God’s sovereignty is not just about using what was happening in History to make His plans happen. It is God not just controlling history, no it is God creating History, **creating His Story** so that you would know there is a God, we have seen Him in the face of Jesus, so that we would know we are loved by Him.

Family let’s not cheapen anymore our relationship with God to a set of circumstances where we pray for things and when God doesn’t answer our prayers we give up and do what we want. God loves us too much for that. Could it be that our prayers that are unanswered are also God’s way of communicating with us that He’s involved in our lives as well? That if God did not spare His Son to give Him ultimate glory could He be loving us the same way to bring you the most glory so that people see Jesus in your face?

Where have you this week given up on God? Where have you done what you wanted because He didn’t answer like you wanted Him to? Would you make that right today before you leave? For He loves you and wants to remove that from you as well. And if you don’t know Him as your Lamb of God that takes away your sin then call on His name today, turn over the headship of your life to Him, and be saved. Do it today, for only God knows if you will have a chance tomorrow.



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**PRAYER**

**COMMUNION**

**BENEDICTION**

Go in the name of the Father, that has passed over us preserving us from His wrath that was passed down to His Son for us.

Go in the name of the Son, that became our scapegoat, our lamb that was slain so that our sins could be forgiven.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that has caused you to appreciate God's planning, and who creates in you the desire to share the news of His love with others.