



## **Communion**

Let's eat super! Jesus sent out a few guys to rent a room. That probably included super. They had wine, bread, a table, and songs. What a great time at a feast. It was the traditional Passover meal. A Jewish time of celebration. It's what they always did. In exodus 12 God asked them to remember the spirit of death passing them by in Egypt. It was Gods final act in delivering them from Pharaoh. They were to kill a lamb and paint the door posts with its blood so death would pass them by. It's so symbolic of everything Christianity is.

Jesus stands at the head of the table. It's dinnertime for the Passover meal. Where is the lamb to be slaughtered? Where is the blood? That incident in Egypt was probably well over a thousand years before. Jesus and his friends did not celebrate the Passover like that. I am betting over the years the Jewish nation has refined the Passover meal. They now did it symbolically. So, Jesus stood at the table symbolically as the Passover lamb.

Think about it. Jesus died for our sins. He was sacrificed on the cross and his blood was spilled. Christianity states that the blood of Christ Jesus covers us. We are saved from death if we accept the blood payment of Jesus. The death of Jesus was not just a killing. It was not just a New Testament story. This whole scene is the next chapter in the exodus story. Jesus was Gods final answer to entering the promised land. The land of heaven.

What does Jesus do at the table? He breaks bread just as they did at the Passover meal. They sang songs of praise just as they did after the Red Sea closed. Then Jesus makes two statements that fit the Passover. He says that the bread is his body. It's to represent the Passover lamb. Jesus says he is that lamb. Secondly, Jesus says that the wine they drink is a toast to the blood of the lamb. Drink it in remembrance of the sacrifice.

The final thing that Jesus pulls out of the Passover meal is the word "remember." God asked them to kill a lamb and shed its blood. The meal is to be observed to "remember." Sometimes people think we should kill a lamb and paint blood on door posts. That's not God's point with the first Passover meal. It's to remember what God will do to redeem his people. Jesus is saying that he is the redeemer of people. That he is the final sacrifice. Then he says "do this always in remembrance of me."

Just a few things on communion. The first is the word "remember." If you are new to church then this word is new. There is nothing to remember. However, this is a community meal. If you want to join in the community for the first time, your welcome. God is inviting you into his saved people. God did say in Exodus that the foreigner can join in. All are welcome to learn to remember what God has done and what Jesus did.

Secondly, when is communion? It's on the tenth of the month in Exodus. Further to this is another great point. God told them this is the beginning of their time. This is now the first month of the first year. As a new Christian everything becomes new. Life changes big time. The communion meal is the beginning of something new. It's a celebration. It's a remembrance. I do also believe it's a chance to invite in the new people. It's their first day. With that said communion is observed all over the map. Some remember once a month while others do it weekly. I say do it to celebrate and remember whenever you want.

Thirdly, why bother? Is it just because Jesus told us too? He did that directly because God asked the Israelites to remember. Christianity and the Jewish religion are all about remembering who delivered us from bondage. So, yes, we should do it to remember. A few different sides of Christianity think about communion differently. One says the wine turns to blood in our body. The bread turns into Jesus flesh. Others claim the Spirit of God is in the bread and wine. A few other churches believe that we should all drink of one cup and one bread. No matter how is not the point. The point is to be in community and do it together.

Finally, does it matter that it's wine and bread? The founder of Welch's grape juice realized that kids and alcoholics were excluded from communion. He invented grape (alcohol less) wine to drink in church communion. Eat skittles and juice for all I care. Communion is special to God and Jesus. It's special to the exodus and the fleeing Christians of the 1<sup>st</sup> century. We do it in remembrance. We do it as one body of believers in the same God and to remember our savior Jesus the Son of God: the Christ. Communion has deep meaning to remember.