

Exegetical Notes, Mark 14:12-26
“The Supper”

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Mark 14:12-16

Verse 12

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus’ disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?”

- The story of the Feast of the Passover or the Feast of Unleavened Bread is told in Exodus 12. On that night the Israelites were told to kill a lamb, the Passover or Pascal Lamb, and to spread its blood on the door posts and lintels of their homes. They were told to stay inside. That night the angel of death passed through Egypt killing all the first-born of the Egyptians. However, the Israelites were kept safe behind the blood of the lamb.
- It was time for the Jews to celebrate this great feast which celebrated God’s intervention to save them. The disciples wanted to know where they should prepare to celebrate the Passover.

Verse 13-15

So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, “Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. Say to the owner of the house he enters, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

- Jesus gave the disciples elaborate instructions in answer to their question about where they should prepare to eat the Seder, the Passover supper. They were to go into the city where they would see a man carrying a water jar. Since carrying water was women’s work, seeing a man carrying water would have been odd. They were to follow this man. They were to ask the owner of the house into which the man went to show them the guest room where “the Teacher” would eat the Passover.

Verse 16

The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

- The disciples found the man. Followed him to a house. Discovered that the owner was willing to give Jesus a room in which to eat the Passover. So they prepared for Jesus to celebrate the Passover.

Verse 17-18

When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, “I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me -- one who is eating with me.”

- When it was time to eat the Passover Supper, Jesus arrived at the designated spot where the disciples had set things.
- As they were eating, Jesus announced that he knew that one of them was prepared to betray him.

Verse 19

They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, “Surely not I?”

- Judas had already set his plan to betray Jesus in motion. (see verses 10-11) All of the others were sincere in their question. None of them wanted to be the one who would betray Jesus. But even Judas played along asking, “Is it me?”

Verse 20-21

“It is one of the Twelve,” he replied, “one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.”

- In answer to their question, Jesus is not specific. He simply says that it will be one of them who is there at the table at that moment. However, Judas knew about whom Jesus spoke.
- Jesus issued a strong warning to Judas not to do as he had determined to do. However, Judas was set on his course and would not listen to Jesus.

Verse 22

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”

- Thus the broken bread became the symbol of Jesus' body broken. His body, broken like the bread, was offered in sacrifice for us if we take it.

Verse 23-24

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. "This is my blood of the covenant which is poured out for many," he said to them.

- And so the cup of wine offered up at the Lord 's Table has become the symbol of Jesus' great sacrifice. By receiving the blood of Jesus, we enter into a new relationship with God, a new covenant.

Verse 25-26

"I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God." When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

- At the end of the Seder, Jesus told his disciples that his death was so close that he would not eat or drink again until it had occurred.
- After that, he and his disciples went to the Mount of Olives, a very important spot in religious history. It was the place of Jesus' ascension to the Father and will be the place to which he returns.

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