

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"THE LAST SUPPER"

For individual study or discussion

The Passover was instituted as a reminder to the Hebrews of their deliverance from Egyptian slavery (Exodus 12). It marked a new beginning for the nation of Israel. In Luke 22:7-23, Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper to remind his followers of their deliverance from the slavery of sin while marking a new beginning for the church through his redemptive work on the cross. During the **Last Supper** with his disciples before his crucifixion, Jesus transformed the national meal of Israel to the new meal of the church. It is a meal that is meant to be shared together in community. Jesus invites his followers to the table where they can fellowship with him and each other as we remember his "once for all" sacrifice (Hebrews 10:10).

The Host's sovereign preparations (vv. 7-13, 21-23)

As we return to our studies in the *Gospel of Luke*, we find Jesus making preparations to share the Passover meal and his last supper with the disciples. The opening scene implies secrecy as Jesus gives Peter and John cryptic directions (vv. 10-12). Most commentators believe the secrecy had to do with keeping Judas in the dark so that he would not betray Christ before his appointed time: "At the very time that Satan was actively seeking to destroy him, Jesus was still in control...Our Savior had determined that he would eat this one last meal with his disciples and institute the sacrament of the Lord's Supper...At the very time when people were celebrating their saving deliverance and offering a lamb as a sacrifice for sin, Jesus would offer himself as the Passover Lamb for the whole world."¹ It was all part of his sovereign plan.

- Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and Hebrews 10:1-18. How does Jesus not only fulfill the Passover feast but point to something greater?

The Host's tender heart (vv. 14-16, 21-23)

Jesus demonstrates his tender heart as he earnestly desires to share the Passover meal with his disciples. The meal represents for him everything he is about to do for them. As he takes the "bread of affliction" (Deuteronomy 16:3) and pronounces it "My body which is given for you" (v. 19) and then the cup, which he calls "the new covenant in my blood" (v. 20), he anticipates his redemptive work of bringing his people out of their bondage to sin and death. Matthew Henry summarizes, "He knew it was to be the prologue to his sufferings, and therefore he desired it, because it was in order to his Father's glory and man's redemption. He delighted to do even this part of the will of God concerning him as Mediator."²

- Read Exodus 34:5-27. How are we reminded of God's tender heart for his people in the covenant he made with them at Mt. Sinai?
- In Psalm 23:5, David describes the Lord as a shepherd host, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows." What picture of the Lord is David conveying to us? How does it further highlight the Lord's tender heart?

The Host's feast of remembrance, communion, and hope (vv. 17-20)

The Lord's Supper is a memorial meal (v.19). We look backward and remember Christ's atoning work on the cross. It is also a communing meal; when we participate in it, our union with Christ is strengthened (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). As Tim Keller writes, "Meals were also signs of intimacy and community. The Passover meal was always celebrated with one's family; yet, Jesus at the first Passover eats it with the disciples! Why? He is turning them into his family (cf. Matt. 12:48). The Lord's Supper, then, is a meal that creates and commemorates a committed community."³ As we partake of the meal together, we look forward with hope as we anticipate sharing the fullness of the feast with Christ when "the Kingdom of God comes" (v. 18).

- *Immanuel, God with us* (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31-33). Nowhere is this truer than in the Lord's Supper. Read Revelation 3:19-20. How does the Lord's Supper testify to the spiritual communion between Christ and his church?
- Read Revelation 19:6-9 and Luke 13:29, 14:15. Whenever we celebrate the Lord's Supper, what is our future hope? (cf. 1 Corinthians 11:26)

DATE: January 12, 2025

SPEAKER: Wil/Frank

SERIES: The Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 22:7-23

RENEW: 31 Days of Prayer

DAY 18: The Fruit of the Spirit—Peace

PRAYER: Almighty Holy Spirit, you alone can make people like us truly gentle. You have designed gentleness to be the most precise and appropriate approach to a fallen person or circumstance. It is the address of a fallen world with grace wrapped in wisdom and tempered by love. So it is neither too harsh nor too soft for each specific need. The ruin of the fall has made people shellshocked by an intensely painful world. And brash, thoughtless choices litter the landscape. Cultivate in us a desire to address a pain-stained and wound-weary world with gentleness. We ask you to produce this fruit in us through your mere presence with us. Lead us to understand that gentleness requires as much to be withheld as it commands to be given. Help us to follow the example of Jesus, whose responses to every situation were wisely restrained, carefully aimed, and faithfully sustained. Like our Master, make our manner as beautiful as the message we bear. Like our Master, shape the way we live by the grace of your hand, Holy Spirit. We cry out in the matchless name of our perfectly gentle King. Amen.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

The House: University Missions of Chattanooga, supported partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Bev and Andy Warren, supported missionary partner

¹Ryken, Philip. *Luke*, Volume 2. 2009, Phillipsburg, NJ. Zondervan Publishing House. 456-57.

²Henry, Matthew. *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible*. <https://www.christianity.com/bible/commentary/matthew-henry-complete/luke/22>. January 7, 2025.

³Keller, Tim. *Changing the World through the Lord's Supper*. https://rpc-download.s3.amazonaws.com/Changing_the_World_Through_the_Lords_Supper.pdf. January 6, 2025