

The Last Supper
Message 01 in the series, "24 Hours That Changed History"

A. 24 hours before He was crucified, Jesus instructed two of His disciples to go and prepare a room where they could celebrate the Passover together.

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go to prepare the Passover meal for you?" So Jesus sent two of them into Jerusalem with these instructions: "As you go into the city, a man carrying a pitcher of water will meet you. Follow him. At the house he enters, say to the owner, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?' He will take you upstairs to a large room that is already set up. That is where you should prepare our meal." So the two disciples went into the city and found everything just as Jesus had said, and they prepared the Passover meal there." Mark 14:12-16 (NLT)

1. Jesus already knew where he would have the last supper and everything else that was going to take place on the last day of his life.

"The Son of Man must suffer many terrible things," he said. "He will be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead." Luke 9:22 (NLT)

2. It's no coincidence that Jesus' last supper was a Passover meal!

"Announce to the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each household... The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, with no defects. Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Then the whole assembly of the community of Israel must slaughter their lamb or young goat at twilight. They are to take some of the blood and smear it on the sides and top of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the animal. That same night they must roast the meat over a fire and eat it along with bitter salad greens and bread made without yeast... On that night I will pass through the land of Egypt and strike down every firstborn son and firstborn male animal in the land of Egypt. I will execute judgment against all the gods of Egypt, for I am the LORD! But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt. This is a day to remember. Each year, from generation to generation, you must celebrate it as a special festival to the LORD." Exodus 12:3-14 (NLT)

Note: When He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins, Jesus offered Himself as the ultimate Passover lamb — the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'" John 1:29 (NLT)

B. During His last supper with His disciples, Jesus predicted that one of them would betray Him.

"...The one who eats my food has turned against me.' I tell you this beforehand, so that when it happens you will believe that I am the Messiah. I tell you the truth, anyone who welcomes my messenger is welcoming me, and anyone who welcomes me is welcoming the Father who sent me." Now Jesus was deeply troubled, and he exclaimed, 'I tell you the truth, one of you will betray me!' The disciples looked at each other, wondering whom he could mean. The disciple Jesus loved was sitting next to Jesus at the table. Simon Peter motioned to him to ask, 'Who's he talking about?' So that disciple leaned over to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, who is it?' Jesus responded, 'It is the one to whom I give the bread I dip in the bowl.' And when he had dipped it, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. When Judas had eaten the bread, Satan entered into him. Then Jesus told him, 'Hurry and do what you're going to do.' None of the others at the table knew what Jesus meant. Since Judas was

their treasurer, some thought Jesus was telling him to go and pay for the food or to give some money to the poor. So Judas left at once, going out into the night." John 13:18-30 (NLT)

1. Judas was never a committed follower of Jesus; he was only a pretender.

"Then Jesus said, 'I chose the twelve of you, but one is a devil.' He was speaking of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, one of the Twelve, who would later betray him." John 6:70-71 (NLT)

2. Judas proved that it's possible to be religious, hear sound Bible teaching, witness miracles, and yet, not be born again.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"
Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV)

"Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine..." 2 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT)

C. During His last supper with His disciples, Jesus explained that through His death on the cross He would be mediating a new covenant (testament) between Holy God and sinful people.

"As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, 'Take it, for this is my body.' And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And he said to them, 'This is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many. I tell you the truth, I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new in the Kingdom of God.'" Mark 14:22-25 (NLT)

1. The old covenant needed to be replaced because no one could keep it.

"Then Moses went down to the people and repeated all the instructions and regulations the LORD had given him. All the people answered with one voice, 'We will do everything the LORD has commanded.' Then Moses carefully wrote down all the LORD's instructions... Then he sent some of the young Israelite men to present burnt offerings and to sacrifice bulls as peace offerings to the LORD. Moses drained half the blood from these animals into basins... Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it aloud to the people. Again they all responded, 'We will do everything the LORD has commanded. We will obey.' Then Moses took the blood from the basins and splattered it over the people, declaring, 'Look, this blood confirms the covenant the LORD has made with you in giving you these instructions.'" Exodus 24:3-8 (NLT)

"But now Jesus, our High Priest... is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises. If the first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second covenant to replace it. But when God found fault with the people, he said: 'The day is coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and led them out of the land of Egypt. They did not remain faithful to my covenant, so I turned my back on them, says the LORD.'" Hebrews 8:6-9 (NLT)

2. The new covenant is way better!

"But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day, says the LORD: I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people... 'And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins.' When God speaks of a 'new' covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear." Hebrews 8:10-13 (NLT)

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