



#7 "New Covenant"

The Context

But the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who found out where Jesus was should report it so that they might arrest him. John 11:57

The Entry Into Jerusalem

¹³ They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" John 12:13

The Betrayal

And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. ⁵ They were delighted and agreed to give him money. ⁶ He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present. Luke 22:4-5

- Jesus's Intention All Along Was To Give His LIFE Away.

The Passover Meal

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you, do this in remembrance of me" ²⁰ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup saying; "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." Luke 22:19-20

Old Testament Prediction

"when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people. Jeremiah 31:31-33

- The New Covenant Is Not Governed By External OBSERVANCE But By An Internal Conscience

Three Different kinds of Ancient Covenants

#1. A Bilateral PARITY Treaty.
(An Agreement Between Two Equal Parties)

#2. Bilateral SUZERAIN Treaty.
(A King Or Ruling Authority Dictates The Terms & Conditions)

"God's Relationship With The Nation Of Israel Was A Bilateral Suzerain Treaty."

#3. A PROMISSORY Covenant.
(A Unilateral, Unconditional Promise For Your Benefit.)

"Shed Blood Is What Sealed These Ancient Forms Of Covenant"

This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Matthew 26:28

Terms of The New Covenant

- BELIEVE And RECEIVE (John 3:16)
- FOLLOW Jesus (Matthew 4:19)

Life Group Discussion Questions

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Jesus initiated a new covenant, a new agreement between God and humanity. It includes every nation for every generation, fulfilling God's promise to Abraham and replacing God's covenant with Israel. It is unconditional and unlimited. And it's available to you.

- Have you ever been told an agreement, contract, or even a relationship was unconditional or unlimited only to discover there was a catch? What happened?
- Have you ever experienced unconditional love? If not, do you think unconditional love is possible? Why or why not?
- What are some things that have influenced your assumptions about the terms and conditions of having a relationship with God?
(Consider the three different kinds of covenants.)
- The Pharisees feared what Jesus might take away if he became king. What are some things you worry he might take away if you allowed him to be king in your life?
- *Read Luke 22:19-20.*
- It must have been very difficult for the disciples to understand that Jesus was replacing a system that had defined their entire relationship with God. Is it hard for you to believe Jesus did everything that was required for you to have a relationship with God?
- Are there areas of your life that you still try to earn God's love?
- What is one thing you can do this week to more fully embrace your heavenly Father's unconditional love and unlimited forgiveness? How can this group support and encourage you?
- Remember what Jesus has done by celebrating Communion in your group.
- Spend some time this week reading and reflecting on:
 - Matthew 26:17-30;
 - Mark 14:12-26;
 - Luke 22:7-39
 - John 13:1-17.

Sources:

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