

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER- JESUS' LAST SUPPER Luke 22:14-20

We all celebrate for different reasons. A celebration focuses us on a specific person or event and allows us to remember something about that person or event. Long standing celebrations include different elements which heighten the experience. Participating in a celebration without knowing its meaning or significance limits your appreciation of that event, but knowing the full story gives greater meaning and significance to the celebration. In our passage today, we will be invited into the celebration of a significant Jewish tradition that has been celebrated for thousands of years: The Passover meal. As Jesus leads his disciple in this celebration He brings a new meaning to the tradition and a greater significance to the elements that are represented in this meal. In order for us to grasp the significance of Jesus's last supper with his disciples, it would benefit us to learn the story and the tradition behind the Passover.

EGYPT, PASSOVER AND EXODUS (EXODUS 1-12)

3,500 years ago Pharaoh ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves and made their lives bitter with hard service (Ex. 1:8-14). The Egyptians cast every son born to the Hebrews into the Nile river out of fear that they would multiply and grow to be a strong nation (Ex. 1:15-22). As the years went by the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help (Ex. 2:23-25). God heard their cries and had Moses confront pharaoh with nine plagues requesting that he let the Israelites go. But Pharaoh did not. So God spoke to Moses to bring about one final plague that Pharaoh would finally let the people go (Ex.4:21-23). God then said that at midnight he was going to go through Egypt and judge them by killing their first born, but he would deliver Israel from oppression and slavery and Pharaoh would let them go. God gave the Israelites specific directions to follow in order to be delivered from the final plague. The instructions were: 1. Take a pure spotless lamb and sacrifice it. 2. Pour out its blood and paint it on the doorpost of your house. 3. Roast the lamb and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. The Angel of death will see the blood as a sign and passover that house and not destroy the first born. God then said, "This day shall be for you a memorial day, and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord; throughout your generations, as a statute forever, you shall keep it as a feast (Ex. 12:1-14). And from that day forward every Jew celebrated the passover.

THE PASSOVER MEAL

Since the day of the Exodus, Jews have been celebrating the passover meal as a remembrance of what God had done for them in Egypt. Like so many other

celebrations, there is an order to the event and special elements included in the ceremony that add greater significance to the celebration. During the Passover some of the elements include: a time of blessing, hand washing, the telling of the Passover story, eating bread, herbs and the lamb. The purpose of elements is to take the participant back to that event and give them a tangible reminder of what they were freed from. The eating of the unleavened bread was to remember the haste in which they left Egypt. The eating of the bitter herbs was to remember the bitterness of slavery. The third blessing was the cup of redemption which represented the shedding of the blood of the lamb to redeem the Jews. And every other element in the passover represented a significant part of that day. At the end of the passover there is a final blessing followed by the signing of the Hallel which is Psalm 133-118.

THE LAST SUPPER (LUKE 22:14-20)

This was the passover meal that Jesus was about to celebrate with his disciples, however it would be anything but an ordinary celebration and though they didn't recognize the significance of what Jesus was saying in the moment, it was a night to remember and celebrate for the rest of their lives.

As Jesus was leading this meal, He was showing the disciples that he was the greater fulfillment of the passover. That the unleavened bread which represented the freedom from slavery in Egypt, now represents Jesus's broken body which frees us from the slavery of sin in our lives. The cup of redemption which represented how God redeemed his people through the blood of the pure spotless lamb, is now the cup which becomes the symbol of the blood of the Lamb who takes away the sins of the world. It is the inauguration of the New Covenant promised in Jeremiah 31:31-34. The Church is part of this new covenant where God remembers our sins no more. We are to REMEMBER what Jesus said and did that night. When we participate in communion, we are celebrating the ultimate fulfillment of the Passover.

Grace Family Needs, News and Notes

Today!- Photo directory make-ups

If you missed out or need to retake your photo for the directory today is the day to make it up. Head over to the modular lounge after first service to get your photo taken

Nov. 7th @ 4PM Fall Business Meeting

Our fall business meeting will be next Sunday at 4pm. Bring a finger food to share! For more information: Grace Office @ office@gccramona.com

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing – Sundays Nov. 7th, 14th, and 21st 2021

It's that time of year to pack shoe boxes. Please stop by the operation Christmas Child table on the patio and fill a shoebox for children all around the world. For more information: Charmaine Bush @ firstlady@sv-mail.com or visit the Grace OCC webpage