

Jesus placed the Lord's Supper in the setting of the Passover.

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom." When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26:26-30

1. Treasure the Deliverance of God

The disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

Matthew 26:17

The design of the Passover was established in Moses' day (*Exodus 12; Leviticus 16*). If at all possible, the Jews were to eat the Passover in Jerusalem. The instructions for the meal included five major elements.

- (1) Choose an unblemished lamb.
- (2) Sacrifice the lamb.
- (3) Cover the doorposts of the family home with the blood of the lamb.
- (4) Eat the flesh of the lamb in a fellowship meal.
- (5) Keep the Passover as a "Day of Remembrance."

Ancient rabbis wanted every Jew to participate in the first exodus and sought to make the experience come to life in the present.

The "Night of the Passover" was called the "Night of Watching." After Jesus transformed the meal, the "Night of Watching" became a reminder to believers to wait expectantly for the Messiah.

For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the Festival (Feast)...

1 Corinthians 5:7, 8

Jesus shifted the focus away from the Passover Lamb to the covenant made in his body and blood.

2. Treasure the Provision of God

Manna played a big role in God's provision during the Hebrews' wilderness wanderings. Jesus' choice of words may have a connection to *Genesis 3:6*. His sacrifice addresses humanity's earlier choice.

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Matthew 26:26

Paul asked, *is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?*

1 Corinthians 10:16

And John may have captured another Lord's Supper setting.

This bread came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.

John 6:58

3. Treasure the Forgiveness of God

The cup Jesus offered was the third cup of the Passover Meal.

1st cup—**Sanctification**

(I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.)

2nd cup—**Blessing/Proclamation**

(I will free you from being slaves to them.)

3rd cup—**Redemption (Blessing, Salvation)**

(I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and mighty acts of judgment.)

4th cup—**Acceptance/Praise**

(I will take you as my people and I will be your God.)

Jesus gave thanks and offered it to them saying, "Drink from it all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Matthew 26:27, 28

Again, John inserted Jesus' additional insight into the meaning of what we are encountering. *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.*

John 6:53

Breaking of bread and taking the cup with other believers signifies fellowship within the body of Christ and unity of Holy Spirit (*Acts 2:42*). The body of Christ is strengthened, and Jesus is honored when the body of Christ serves one another in humility and shares blessings in selfless love.

The New International Version, 1984 is the translation used in this Bible study.

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